Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-085
Wednesday
2 May 1990

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FBIS-NES-90-085 *2 May 1990*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Extraordinary Arab Summit Plans

15-20 May Date

JN0105181490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 May 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Dr Nabil Sha'th, Fatah Central Committee member and Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has stated that at yesterday's meeting, President Mubarak informed the Palestinian president of his intention to participate in the upcoming Arab summit. President Mubarak said that an official announcement to this effect will be made immediately following Mubarak's return from his Syria visit. In a statement to our radio, Sha'th said the summit will be held in Baghdad sometime between 15 and 20 May.

15 States Agree To Attend

LD0105183890 Kuwait KUNA in English 1402 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Tunis, May 1 (KUNA)—Fifteen Arab states have so far agreed to hold the extraordinary Arab summit which the State of Palestine has called for to discuss threats against the Arab nation, an Arab League source said here Tuesday [1 May].

The source said that the summit would discuss latest developments in the Arab arena and take a unified Arab stand toward threats against the Arab world specially the Soviet Jews emigration to occupied Palestine and threats against Iraq.

The source pointed out that the countries which have accepted the invitation are Tunis, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Sudan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen Democratic Republic, Qatar, Bahrain, Mauritania and Djibouti in addition to Palestine and the summit host Iraq.

The League secretariat general said that it would continue coordinations with state members to discuss the preparations to hold the summit and set the due date after completing the legal quorum.

Iraqi Diplomatic Source on Syrian Ties, Summit

JN0105165090 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 30 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned from Iraqi diplomatic sources in Amman that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has, in principle, responded to Egyptian-Jordanian mediation and expressed readiness to discuss improving Iraqi-Syrian relations within the framework of Arab solidarity. The sources added that the Egyptian and Jordanian Governments are now trying to convene a summit meeting in Cairo that will include Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Jordan's King Husayn, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to establish an effective and cohesive Arab stance.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Urges EC To Oppose Israeli Settlement Policy

JN0105171790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] The PLO has urged the EC countries to adopt a firm and effective position against the Zionist maneuvers and expansionist policies in the occupied Arab territories. In a memorandum addressed to the EC countries, the PLO stressed the need for the EC and international community to shoulder their responsibility for protecting the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories and to work to save the peace march.

The memorandum, which was conveyed today to the EC representative, the Italian ambassador in Tunis, by Palestinian Ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi, dealt with the stumbling efforts to promote the peace process being hampered by the exposed Zionist maneuvers, which enjoy the support of world imperialism and which were crystallized following the resolutions that were adopted by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives considering Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity despite that entity's continued settlement policy and growing terrorist actions against the Palestinian people.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Abu Dhabi 2 May

JN0205081590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 May (WAKH)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Baghdad on a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] within the framework of his current Arab tour to prepare for the emergency Arab summit called for by the State of Palestine to discuss threats to pan-Arab security.

He was received at the airport by Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and Khalid Malak, the ambassador of the State of Palestine to the UAE.

In a statement to WAM upon arrival, the Palestinian president said that all the states he has visited on his current tour have agreed to the State of Palestine's call for an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad as soon as possible. He pointed out that all these states agreed on the summit's agenda, which contains only one point; namely, the threats to the Arab nation and to pan-Arab security, whether direct threats to Arab states, including Iraq, or threats posed by the wave of Jewish emigration from the USSR, the socialist states, Ethiopia, and others to occupied Palestine.

'Arafat pointed out that efforts are under way to clear the air between Iraq and Syria. He expressed the hope that

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad would attend the summit, and that the summit would be held as soon as possible before the meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev scheduled for 30 May.

It is worth noting that the Palestinian president's tour has so far covered—in addition to the United Arab Emirates—the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Sudan, Libya, Egypt, the Yemen Arab Republic, Iraq, and Tunisia.

Algeria

FLN Calls for Alliance With Left-Wing Parties

NC2904173590 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers, April 29 (AFP)—The Algerian ruling National Liberation Front [FLN] called Sunday for an alliance of leftwing parties, including the communists, to present a credible "democratic" alternative to Algerians attracted by Islamic fundamentalism.

El Moudjahid, the FLN official organ, said the party would only succeed "by developing a policy of alliances... with groups of the broad patriotic and democratic family," a clear allusion to leftwingers and members of the Socialist Vanguard (communist) Party barred by the FLN's old rules.

The FLN daily said the "leftists and communist militants who were once active in the party and its mass organisations" had been excluded by the "hegemonistic" nature of the FLN's former statutes.

The FLN is facing the most serious challenge to its rule from the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) which seeks to turn Algeria into an Islamic republic. Recently, Abderrahmane Belayat of the FLN political bureau said the party was "willing to cooperate with all other groups to spur the advance of democracy," including the FIS.

El Moudjahid said the FLN and the country would benefit from such cooperation. However in an earlier article, the same paper called for a "purge" from FLN ranks of "elements who have established links with the FIS".

According to reliable sources in Algiers, about 60 deputies out of the 200—all from the FLN—who form the parliament plus a good many members of the FLN central committee, would support a "strategic alliance" with the FIS.

Egypt

MENA Reports Mubarak Arrival in Damascus

NC0205082790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0809 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 2 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived today in Damascus on an official visit to Syria. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad headed the delegation which welcomed President Mubarak at Damascus International Airport.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Discuss Regional Concerns

JN3004184490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at noon today within a delegation comprising Jamal al-Surani, Nabil Sha'th, Sa'id Kamal, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah. The discussions dealt with the issue of the forthcoming Arab summit. The Egyptian president said he is ready to participate in any move that serves the Arab nation's interests after studying the matter comprehensively in light of the current contacts.

Our radio has learned that 'Arafat submitted to President Mubarak a plan for a Palestinian strategy that will be submitted to the Arab summit on the adoption of a united Arab stand to confront the Israeli plans to Judaize Jerusalem. The Palestinian strategy focuses on two major points. The first is the need to approach the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the EEC countries regarding the imposition of economic and trade sanctions on Israel. The second point is the adoption of an international plan by the United Nations to protect holy places in Jerusalem and to form an international supervision force to protect the Palestinian people's rights in the occupied territories.

The two leaders discussed the dimensions of President Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Moscow, as well as the Syrian-Egyptian summit and the possibility of achieving a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation following President Mubarak's visit to Damascus.

It has been learned that the two leaders' discussions also dealt with Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the next stage. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] informed President Mubarak that agreement was reached on a joint action plan to confront the Israeli scheme of the substitute homeland, and that the action plan is based on an agreement for joint Arab measures to protect the Jordanian borders and compel Israel to give up this scheme.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry had prepared a working paper dealing with the bases of Egyptian-Palestinian coordination in the stage that will follow the formation of the new Israeli Government and these bases were discussed in detail by the two leaders.

Mubarak Scheduled To Arrive in USSR 14 May

JN2904201090 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, senior under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and head of the president's office for political affairs, will meet with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo this week to prepare for President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union which will take place on 14 May.

The agenda for the president's visit to the USSR will be announced in Cairo and Moscow on 7 May. On 15 May, the president will inaugurate the Egyptian industrial fair which will exhibit engineering and chemical products in addition to foodstuffs and textiles, with special emphasis on the goods needed by the Soviet market.

Egyptian and Soviet businessmen will also meet to conclude several business deals, especially since the balance of trade tips in Egypt's favor.

Following his visit to the USSR, President Mubarak will leave for Geneva on 18 May to deliver a speech at the WHO session on behalf of the Third World.

Envoy Carries Mubarak Message to Habre

Ghali Comments

NC2704175690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Ambassador 'Aziz Sayf-al-Nasr, assistant to the foreign minister, arrived in Chad today carrying a message for Chadian President Hissein Habre from President Husni Mubarak.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, stated that the message is part of the effort that Egypt is making to contain the conflict between Chad and Libya. He added that the message also falls within the framework of the efforts being made by the reconciliation committee chaired by Gabonese President Omar Bongo to settle the Libyan-Chadian dispute.

Envoy Returns

NC3004090190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0827 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Ambassador 'Aziz Sayf-al-Nasr, assistant to the foreign minister, returned to Cairo this morning after a two-day visit to Chad. During his visit, he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Chadian President Hissein Habre on the efforts to solve differences among fraternal African countries.

Butrus Ghali Leaves for Geneva Meeting

NC2904102090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Geneva this morning for a five-day visit to Switzerland. He will attend the meetings of the 42d session of the International Law Commission scheduled to begin there tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges Pressure on U.S.-USSR Summit

JN2804112190 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Apr 90 p 6

[Editorial: "So That Our Voices Will Not Fall on Deaf Ears"]

[Text] A month and a few days from now, the leaders of the two superpowers, U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, will meet in Washington to discuss important international and bilateral issues. At these kind of meetings, which are usually called summits, an understanding is reached, bargaining is carried out, and deals are concluded between the two men who rule the two most powerful countries in the world.

On such occasions, the Arab world has gotten used to either standing by and watching or to appealing to the two leaders to view Arab complaints and concerns with sympathy. These methods are never taken seriously by those participating in summit meetings. We must shun them and adopt others that are more dignified and effective so that the Arab voice will reverberate in the ears of the conferees.

The Arab nation, which is now facing serious challenges, should be more decisive, particularly in setting forth their causes to the two world leaders before they reach any agreement that could be harmful to these causes—specifically the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories. We have seen how the understanding reached between the two giants brought about this state of affairs, which endangers the security of all Arabs and imperils the entire Middle East.

There is still ample time to decide on the method to be used so that Arab causes may get the attention they deserve at the forthcoming Washington summit.

51 Detained for Riots; Investigation Continues

NC2704205790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2006 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Asyut, 27 Apr (MENA)—'Abd-al-'Aziz Mukhtar, public attorney at the Asyut's prosecutor's office, has decided to detain 51 persons in connection with the riots that occurred in the city of Manfalut yesterday for 15 days pending interrogation. Another 96 persons are currently being interrogated about the incidents. The prosecutor's office charged the defendants with five offenses: premeditated murder, loitering, resisting the authorities, sabotage, and arson.

The public attorney had earlier heard testimony from the Manfalut police station commander and 13 police officers who witnessed the incidents. The public prosecutor's office has also decided to send an expert from the criminal laboratory to carry out an investigatation into the fires that broke out in shops and the four weapons that were seized during the incidents. Some 25 people were wounded in the riots. Muhammad Farghali Mutawalli died today, raising the death toll to five [as received].

Several 'Extremists' Arrested, One Killed in Clash

JN2904203790 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Apr 90 p 9

[By Hasan al-Shayib]

[Text] At dawn yesterday, al-Fayyum security organs arrested 10 wanted extremists in the city of Ibshaway. One suspect was shot dead in a clash with police.

Police forces had raided several hideouts at dawn in a bid to catch the extremists. When one of them tried to attack the

police with a firearm, he was dealt with and killed; his firearm together with the ammunition were seized.

A security source told AL-JUMHURIYAH that the Interior Ministry and al-Fayyum police are clearing the governorate's cities and villages of the extremists and those wanted in connection with earlier incidents. The police are in full control of the situation, said the source.

Libya

Two Germans Interrogated for Al-Rabitah Fire

LD0205074490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 1 May (JANA)—Sources at the General People's Committee for Justice have said that investigations into the crime of arson at al-Rabitah pharmaceuticals factory are still continuing with two West German citizens.

These sources pointed out to JANA that the two West Germans, (?Hans Schroder), director of (Otto Kay) company, and (Peter Lahoff), technician of the same company, are still being interrogated, and that the investigations are continuing in order to reveal the circumstances of the fire.

People's Committee Statement on Chadian Affairs

LD0105204190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 1 May (JANA) - The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation issued the following statement:

The Chadian Government has continued to escalate its hostile campaign against Libya since that government entered the confrontation against the forces split from the Chadian Army under the command of Idriss Deby which are centered in eastern Chad. This escalation was represented by a hostile campaign instigating war against Libya on whose shoulders the Chadian Government tried to put the responsibility for the Chadian-Chadian power struggle after President Habre's failure to achieve national reconciliation, and hence security and stability in Chad.

The Chadian president's speech on 26 April represented a perfect example of the behavior of the Chadian Government officials. This speech was tantamount to a declaration of intent to commit aggression and preparation for it. The same applies to the statements by his foreign minister in Paris in which he revealed his government's intention of wriggling out of the Algiers Agreement and abandoning negotiations as a means of settling the dispute with Libya. In confirmation of these hostile intentions, the Chadian foreign minister announced his request for French military support.

If the Chadian officials were in agreement on addressing direct threats to the Libyan people, they were clearly contradicting each other on the current battles in eastern Chad. At one time Habre talked about what he claimed to be 'Libyan aggression' against his country. The statements by his foreign minister confirmed that what was happening was fighting between Chadian elements claiming that Libya's role was in training and provision yet he knows well that the force stationed in eastern Chad is basically a dissident force from the Chadian Army. It is noticeable that for the first time the Chadian foreign minister pointed to the number of prisoners taken by the Chadian Government. However, he was far from the truth and did not mention the correct number which is an indication of the kind of information being received about the nature and the suffering of the Libyan prisoners at the hands of the Chadian forces.

Previously Libya repeatedly declared that it has no part in the struggle between the Chadian factions. It is asserting this once again just as it asserted its firm stance by [word indistinct] with the agreement framework signed between the two countries as an integral whole and with detailed observance of its text, the law, and the international agreement and practices within this framework. [sentence as received] This happened at the same time that the Chadian Government practically confirmed its nonobservation of international law, the four Geneva conventions of 1949 and the two annexed protocols. It acted repeatedly using this form of exploitation and blackmail with regards to the issue of prisoners and resorted to methods rejected by morality and law. This is what disrupted, until now, an executive protocol for a framework for agreement for which the joint committee allocated all its meetings.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation asserts once more that Libya has no connection with the armed confrontation between Chadians and has no aggressive intentions. What is going on in Chad now is a struggle between Chadian factions.

We are still hoping for dialogue and depending on it because it is the ideal means to achieve understanding and settle disputes within the framework of abiding by international law and moving away from blackmail, provocation and threats. We also confirm once more the call we made to the OAU to work toward investigating what is taking place in eastern Chad and on the Sudanese-Chadian borders.

The Libyan-Chadian borders are dominated by security, calm and stability since the cease-fire between the two countries.

As the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation denounces the hostile spirit of the statements by the Chadian officials which are aimed at fanning the fire of dispute and sowing hatred and dislike between the two brotherly Libyan and Chadian peoples, it draws attention once more to the Chadian regime's dangerous approach and the threat it represents to security and stability in the region in general and to Chad in particular.

Dignitaries To Attend Battle Celebrations

'Arafat Arrives

LD2904133490 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived this morning in Surt to take part in the people's celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the famous al-Qaradabiyah battle. [passage omitted]

Fatah Official, Egyptians Arrive

LD2904184190 Tripoli JANA in English 1445 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 29 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Hani al-Hasan, the member of the Central Committee and responsible for external relations in the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah), and the delegation in his company arrived this afternoon in Tripoli.

Also arrived were the delegations of the Egyptian Socialist Labour Party and the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights to attend the massive popular festivities in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the famous al-Qaradabiyah battle which took place on 28-29 April (al-Tayr) 1915.

Morocco

Labor Minister Abbadi Makes May Day Speech

LD0105082190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 May 90

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] On the occasion of Labor Day Minister of Labor Hassan Abbadi made a speech in which he reviewed the achievements which have been realized for the benefit of workers in the fields of employment, social care and immigrant works, as well as the most important achievements which his majesty's government intends to realize in these fields. [passage omitted]

On investment the minister said that in 1989 investment grew by 28 percent and this led to the creation of about 141,000 employment opportunities in the rural areas and 95,000 vacancies in the countryside in both the private and public sectors as well as the local authorities. [passage omitted]

The minister added that in implementation of the royal directives the government has decided to increase the minimum wage in the trade and industrial sectors, self-employment and agriculture by ten percent as from today. The government, he said, has agreed to increase also the payments made to those who sustain injuries at work and vocational diseases or their families by 20 percent, and to reduce the taxes levied on pensions paid in Morocco to Moroccan workers abroad by 80 percent.

Crown Prince Leaves for UAE, Kuwait, Iraq

LD0205083790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness the crown prince, Sidi Mohamed, left Morocco in the early hours of this morning for Abu Dhabi at the start of an official visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The visit will last several days and is made at the invitation of Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Sa'id, the heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, is accompanied on this visit by an important delegation consisting of the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Abdellatif Filali, a number of officers of the high command of the Royal Armed Forces, and other officials. [passage omitted]

After visiting the UAE, Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed will pay similar official visits to Kuwait and Iraq.

Spokesman Condemns U.S. Resolution on Jerusalem

LD2804053890 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Following the resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives lately—considering noble Jerusalem a unified city and capital of the state of Israel—the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has made a statement to MAP in which he said:

This attitude by the U.S. House of Representatives gives rise to great regret and extreme anxiety for several reasons: On one hand, this resolution confirms a similar resolution passed by the U.S. Senate, which this ministry had denounced at the time. The U.S. Congress with its two chambers adopts a hostile attitude, which challenges the feelings of the Arab and the Islamic nations, despite the fact that this attitude is different from, or rather contradicts, the official attitude of the U.S. Government, which considers East Jerusalem a land occupied by Israel, and believes, that the final status of noble Jerusalem should be defined in an international agreement.

On the other hand, this attitude by the U.S. Congress, despite the fact that it does not commit the U.S. Administration, is liable to further worsen conditions in the occupied territories and tension in the region in general, because it encourages Israel to persist in its intransigence and its rejection of all peace initiatives. Also, it is liable to further complicate the situation and obstruct the efforts being exerted for starting the peace process. The spokesman went on to say: While we condemn this attitude by the U.S. Congress, we also denounce with the same severity the continuing inhumane Israeli practices against the Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including the acts of killing carried out by the

Israeli Army on the night of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, in which a large number of innocent citizens fell victim in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Sudan

Further on Foiled Coup Attempt

Further Executions Denied

NC3004143990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Apr (MENA)—Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, Sudanese information minister and official spokesman for the Sudanese Government, has denied reports of the execution of a number of noncommissioned officers and soldiers among those who took part in the recent coup attempt.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, the government's official spokesman emphasized that the four major field court-martials are still continuing their investigations and will announce their verdicts when they are determined. The spokesman said no civilians had been brought to trial before the court-martials, and pointed out that civilians cannot be tried under military laws without the approval of the public prosecutor.

The official spokesman also denied reports that some Sudanese armed forces officers had submitted a protest memorandum to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, describing such reports as baseless rumors. He said such an act is prohibited under military law and is not in line with military discipline.

In another development, a number of women gathered in a square in Khartoum today and tried to organize a peaceful march toward the Sudanese armed forces headquarters to protest the implementation of the recent military verdicts. However, security troops dispersed them without causing loss of life.

SPLA Disputes Reports

E4250408161990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Reports reaching Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] from Khartoum cast a lot of doubt on the junta's claim that there was an attempted coup in Khartoum at all. These reports indicate that the whole affair was stage-managed by the junta to eliminate its opponents. The following pieces of information have not been established as true.

One: Some of the executed officers were arrested and kept in detention three days before the alleged coup. However, in the junta's announcement, they claim that these officers were arrested in the act leading troops, which is an obvious lie since these officers were already in detention three days before the coup. We want the junta to explain this deadly discrepancy.

Two: About 40 soldiers were arrested in the paratroopers' school. Our information reveals that these were merely selected for their backgrounds and to give credence to the [claim by the] junta that there was a real coup, by producing soldiers who allegedly participated.

Three: The other group of soldiers, also about 40 and also paratroopers, were arrested in Soba [on the outskirts of Khartoum], not at the airport or main gate of the general headquarters as claimed by the junta. Actually, these soldiers were already under some form of detention. They are soldiers who were transferred from al-Damazin area to Khartoum as a result of a mutiny there some months before the alleged coup.

Four: The last group of alleged coup makers are from auxiliary and regular police forces. Our sources reveal that extensive arrests and purges in the police forces are already underway. There has been friction between the junta and the police as the work of the police is being taken over by the junta's National Islamic Front vigilants.

The above said clearly shows a lot of doubt and skepticism on the junta's claim that there was a military coup at all. We challenge the junta to prove that there was a military coup and call on the Sudanese people to investigate the facts for themselves, and on Amnesty International and other human rights groups to make their own investigations.

Opposition Group Condemns Executions

E4270423590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The National Democratic Forum, West Europe, has issued the following statement on the murder of 28 officers by the National Islamic Front (NIF) junta. The full text of the statement reads:

On 24th April, news was received of executions within the previous 24 hours of 28 officers and ex-officers of the Sudanese Armed Forces. Within a few hours these officers had been seized and tried by a summary field court martial and immediately executed on the questionable ground of involvement in a coup d'etat on the morning of 23rd April. The fact of a coup has since been denied by observers in Khartoum. Rather, there was an emergency high security deployment of forces of the ruling junta around the capital of Khartoum and its airport.

We protest strongly against the so-called trials of these officers, who without benefit of any kind of defense were so summarily executed. We urge that the records of the trials should be published. We believe it was a politically motivated charge by the ruling junta to rid itself of all possible opposition because of its own lack of popular support by the Sudanese people. This ruling junta, itself,

seized power in a coup d'etat 10 months ago from a legitimate democratically elected government.

We urge all governments as well as all democratic forces to make strong protests to the ruling junta in Sudan about its lack of observance of common justice according to international law, and these inhuman executions it has carried out. We also urge all governments and democratic forces to press for restoration of democracy and basic civil liberties and rule of law in the Sudan.

Economic Reform Program To Be Introduced

EA3004163790 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29 April (SUNA)—The fiscal 1990-91, which starts on July 1st, will be the basis for the economic salvation programme of the government.

An official source at the Ministry of Finance told SUNA, the new budget will target self-reliance, production increase, lowering consumption and public spending and increase of exports.

The economic reform programme was drawn up by the recent economic conference, which has recommended several economic reforms in the country.

PLO's 'Arafat Stops Over, Meets Al-Bashir

EA2904124790 Khartoum SUNA in English 1021 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29 April (SUNA)—President Yasir 'Arafat, who stopped over Sunday, has underlined that the upcoming Arab summit should take practical measures and not decisions vis-a-vis Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir received the Palestinian official and reviewed with him the situation and new developments in the occupied Arab territories and the Arab and Islamic nations.

The upcoming Arab emergency meeting is also to review Arab support for Iraq against Western campaigns.

Al-Bashir Visit To Kenya Postponed

EA3004164190 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] The planned visit to Kenya today of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, at the invitation of the Kenyan President, Daniel arap Moi, has been postponed. The visit will be set for at a later date.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Praises Workers in 1 May Speech

LD0105141990

[Editorial Report] Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic at 1217 GMT on 1 May broadcasts a recording of a 22-minute speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at a 1 May ceremony in the President Palace in Carthage to honor the best workers of the year.

Ben Ali emphasized the progress made in solving the trade union crisis since 7 November 1987, and hailed the wideranging negotiations between the Tunisian General Labor Federation and the employers association—the Tunisian Federation of Industry, Commerce, and Handicrafts—to improve salaries in the public and private sectors. He said the wages policy adopted by the government draws a balance between the country's capacities and the purchasing power of the citizen within the ongoing general framework of the process of development. He referred to all pay increases made so far and said other increases are being discussed and achieved.

Ben Ali stressed that development and democracy are very much related, and called on the political parties to put the interest of the country before their own interests. He reaffirmed that the amendments to the electoral code are aimed at making representation of the political parties in the Chamber of Deputies possible.

He also refered to the reform of the information sector and its importance in promoting the democratic process. He announced that there is an intention to set up an information agency for abroad. To conclude with, he said that Tunisians should all work together to make the forthcoming eighth plan successful.

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Washington

LD2804163190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Ismail Khelil, the foreign minister, held talks in Washington yesterday with a number of high-ranking American officials, and held a discussion with Robert Kimmitt, acting secretary of state [title as heard], on bilateral relations, the means to develop them, and the most important international issues. Mr. Robert Kimmit affirmed the expectations of high-ranking U.S. officials regarding the upcoming visit which will be paid by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to Washington 15 May. In a statement to TAP, Mr. Ismail Khelil pointed out that he noticed through his contacts with U.S. officials an interest in the Tunisian democratic experience and the policy adopted by Tunisia to strengthen its economy and make it more efficient.

Ghannouchi Announces GATT Accession in Geneva

LD2704205990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister of economy and finance, signed on behalf of the Tunisian Government, Tunisia's protocol of accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) at a ceremony held at the GATT headquarters in Geneva today. The protocol will take effect in a month's time following its ratification by the [Tunisian] Chamber of Deputies. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy Arrives in Tunis 1 May

LD0105203190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, special envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, arrived this evening in Tunis.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Computer Use for Iraqi Missile

LD2704225690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2240 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Apr (SPA)—An authoritative source has denied what the ASSOCIATED PRESS reported, quoting an Israeli daily that "Iraq used the Saudi computer to carry out complex calculations needed for the development of the Iraqi missile program." The source added in his statement to SPA, which he made today, that "the report was categorically untrue; the computer in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is only used for civil purposes related to oil matters."

Yemen Arab Republic

Reports Conflict on Alleged YAR Tribal Rebellion

Salih Requests PDRY Troops

JN0105151690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] AFP reports that tribal rebellion has broken out in North Yemen, in an area northwest of Sanaa. Well-informed sources in Sanaa and Aden announce that the tribal rebellion erupted northwest of Sanaa. The sources note that the government forces are trying to control the rebels from the Sa'dah tribe. Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this morning paid a lightning visit to Aden seeking military assistance from South Yemen. The sources say 10,000 soldiers from South Yemen were dispatched to help in quelling the rebellion.

Salih Reassures Husayn

JN0105173090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Arab Cooperation Council, telephoned his brother his excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] as soon as his majesty heard reports by some news agencies on an alleged rebellion in northwest Yemen. President Salih reassured his majesty King Husayn that the situation in Yemen is completely calm and that nothing of the kind has ever taken place. He said the report carried by some news agencies is sheer lies and has no relation whatsoever to the truth.

President Salih stressed that the two halves of Yemen are proceeding with their steps toward the achievement of the lofty national goal of the Yemeni people; namely, unity between the two halves of Yemen.

In another development, the Yemeni news agency SABA' said President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today paid a brief visit to Aden during which he held talks with officials in the southern part of Yemen on unionist action and procedural steps for the establishment of the Yemeni republic. Before leaving Aden airport, his excellency made a news statement in which he stressed that his visit was a continuation of the Sanaa meeting, which was held toward the end of the blessed month of Ramadan, and that it was aimed at arranging for the proclamation of the unionist state. President Salih was accompanied on the visit by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of officials.

AFP Report Denied

JN0105204490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2022 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] A responsible source told the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', in Sanaa and Aden today that the fabricated report transmitted by AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE claiming that there were so-called disturbances in some Yemeni areas was a form of intrigue and conspiracy over the unity steps taken by the united Yemeni leadership to declare the establishment of the Yemeni republic.

The source asserted that peace and stability prevail in all regions of the Yemeni homeland and that those who harbor rancor and spread lies will die of spite because the united Yemeni state is coming very soon thanks to the support of the Yemeni people who struggled and gave up many martyrs to achieve this great national objective.

'Plot' Alleged

JN0205083790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Doha, 2 May (INA)—The Yemen Arab Republic has renewed its denial of a reported tribal rebellion in the Sa'dah area in the northwestern part of the country. Mutahhir Taqi, under secretary of the Yemeni Information Ministry, said there was absolutely no tribal rebellion. He added that security and stability are prevailing in both parts of Yemen, and that the process of unity between them is in full swing and proceeding unobstructed.

In a statement published today by the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB, he added that yesterday's report about a tribal rebellion falls within the framework of a rabid campaign aimed against the march of Yemeni unity.

A responsible Yemeni source yesterday denied these reports, branding them a plot aimed at blocking unity between the two parts of Yemen.

Salih Returns From Aden After 'Brief Visit'

JN0105153390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Sanaa, 1 May (INA)—President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic returned here today after a brief visit of several hours to Aden. Salih held talks with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, and a number

of officials on a number of issues related to unionist action, procedural steps, and other arrangements pertaining to the proclamation of the Yemeni Republic.

Salih was accompanied on this visit by an important delegation comprising 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, the deputy prime minister; Yahya al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs; and Isma'il al-Wazir, minister of legal affairs.

Report on Salih's 1 May Talks in South Yemen

JN0105192890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] The leadership of the united Yemeni homeland today held a working meeting at the headquarters of the Supreme People's Council Presidium [SPCP] in Aden under the chairmanship of brother leader Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party's Central Committee [YSPCC]. They discussed a number of issues linked to the declaration of the Yemeni republic's establishment in accordance with the unity agreements in continuation of discussions during the historic Sanaa meeting at the end of the blessed month of Ramadan.

The brother leader secretary general arrived in Aden this morning. He met with brothers YSPCC Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid; Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSPCC; Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and SPCP chairman; Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, prime minister and Political Bureau member; members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee; and several ministers, within the framework of coordinating efforts on the united Yemeni homeland to realize the most important objectives of our people and revolution: declaring the united Yemeni homeland.

Brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid made statements at Aden airport asserting that this meeting of the united Yemeni leadership was the continuation of the historic Sanaa meeting held at the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Its task is to wrap up the final preparations for the declaration of the unity state—the Yemeni republic. They said they were very happy with today's meeting in Aden which fell on 1 May, Labor Day. They wished the workers of our country a prosperous future brimming with happiness and goodwill within the united Yemeni homeland.

The brother leader returned to Sanaa at noon today.

Mubarak Phones Salih; Yemeni Unity Discussed

JN0105203890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Brother leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, this evening received a telephone call from his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. They discussed a number of bilateral, Arab, and international issues and ways to bolster Arab solidarity and unify Arab positions to enable the Arab nation to confront all challenges and counter all surrounding threats.

President Salih informed his brother Muhammad Husni Mubarak of all unionist steps toward the proclamation of the united Yemeni Republic, which embodies the will of the Yemeni masses and is an advanced step toward unionist Arab action aimed at fulfilling the hopes of Arabs for full unity. The president leader stressed that action to restore Yemeni unity is moving rapidly and in accordance with the unity agreements. He pointed out that nothing stood in the way of this great action.

Salih, PLO's 'Arafat Discuss 'Militant Ties'

JN2604140890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office this morning brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, head of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestine Revolution Forces. They talked about militant ties between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and Arab and Palestinian and international developments, with an accent on challenges facing the Arab nation, including the new influx of Jews to occupied Palestine from the Soviet Union and other East European countries. They stressed the need to hasten the convening of an Arab summit to address the effects of Jewish immigration and its potentially serious threat to pan-Arab security, and to explore ways of reinforcing Arab solidarity to face up to challenges confronting the Arab nation.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat conveyed the Palestinian people's and his own congratulations to the Yemeni people and their unified leadership as the date of the proclamation of the united Yemeni state approaches. He also voiced his appreciation for the principled national posture of our country to support the PLO-led struggle of the Palestinian Arab people to regain their unabridged legitimate rights and set up their independent state on Palestinian territory with Jerusalem as its capital.

Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih underlined our country's absolute support for the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people's valiant and legitimate struggle and their determined stand against the repression of the occupying Zionist forces.

Minister Sees 'No Reason' To Sever U.S. Ties

JN3004150590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1312 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (WAKH)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, has ruled out any possibility, for the time being, of Iraq severing relations with the United States because of the hostile U.S. stand.

At a news conference he held in Baghdad today, Latif Nusayyuif Jasim said that for the time being there is no reason to sever relations with the United States, Britain, or any other state.

He described the current anti-Iraq campaign as immoral, because it aims to distract world attention from the biggest massacre the world is witnessing these days; that is, the massacre by the occupation authorities of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

This campaign will not make Iraq abandon its moral stand or any of its considerations, the minister added. This campaign, he went on to say, has rallied Arab solidarity with Iraq from the Gulf to the Ocean.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that three large popular conferences will be held in Baghdad during May to demonstrate support for, and solidarity with Iraq. A conference for the Arab peoples will be held on 7 May; a conference for the friendship societies with Iraq on 10 May; and a third conference, bringing Muslim scholars together, in mid-May.

The Iraqi minister wondered: Why is it that Iraq's possession of chemical weapons is considered detrimental to humanity at large, while everybody is silent on the issue of Israel's possession of Western chemical, and biological weapons, and the whole world is also silent on the United States and the Soviet Union possession of these weapons!

Latif Nusayyif Jasim has reasserted that Iraq's possession of weapons is on the grounds of self-defense, noting that the right to self-defense is a legitimate right; and that there is a large difference between possessing weapons and actually using them.

He also reiterated Iraq's determination to end the no-peace, no-war state of affairs, pointing out that this condition should end by concluding a comprehensive peace treaty which ensures Iraq's right to sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab.

Deputy Minister Ramadan Discusses UK Relations

PM0105134990 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 30 Apr 90 pp 12-14

[Interview with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan by Hamidah Na'na' in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Na'na'] In his 2 April address President Saddam Husayn announced Iraq's possession of binary chemical weapons and stressed that Iraq would react decisively to any attack upon it. Was that announcement made to preempt an Israeli plot which you had information on, to confront the international campaign led by Britain, Israel, and the United States, or to emphasize that the Arabs now have a deterrent which alters the previous balance in the region?

[Ramadan] The president's 2 April address to a group of soldiers was not like those speeches which are tailor-made to fit a particular occasion. It had been studied and decided upon at a Revolution Command Council meeting and at a national command meeting. The decision was made and the timing of the announcement was left to the president.

The subject of the address was studied in detail at more than one meeting. The speech was finally endorsed at a meeting held two days earlier. The question facing us as a political leadership was: How will we confront the successive campaigns with the statement? What form will the statement take? Will it announce the weapon and the possession of force? And what type of weapon will be announced? Incidentally, the weapon announced in the address is not the only new weapon Iraq possesses and has not yet used. But we decided to refer to that particular type and verify knowledge of the intentions of the parties heading up the campaign.

The president's emphasis—"if Israel attacks, we will retaliate, we have a weapon, and Israel and others know what the extent of its effect on [a country of] its size and area will be"—was not only a reply to the campaign waged against Iraq because of the spy's execution, but as a result of a full assessment of the conspiratorial march against Iraq. If it had been a reply to the campaign concerning Bazoft, it would have probably taken another form. It would have taken the form of a statement. But as the matter transcended beyond the spy incident, the reply came in the form in question.

[Na'na'] You talk of the Iraqi political leadership's assessment of a U.S.-Israeli-British conspiracy to which Iraq is subjected. Is it possible to explain to us what form the conspiracy takes? When did it start, and is it still continuing?

[Ramadan] Since 1982 Iraq has been exposed to a campaign whose parties are Israel and the United States. As for Britain, it involves itself in any cause which is potentially harmful to Iraq. The reason is that some traditional British political leaders—mainly Conservatives—have not forgotten, nor do they want to forget, that Britain colonized Iraq at one time, just as it colonized other Arab states. They do not believe, nor do they want to believe, that history has changed. Iraq is not like the Iraq they left behind. We spoke to them all in these terms, and during my visit to Britain I met with Thatcher and explained that "cooperation between us cannot grow unless Britain forgets the old Iraq and deals with the new Iraq, that is, changes its mentality and hence its

approach to dealing [with Iraq]. That was when Britain—if you remember—strongly opposed France's delivery of arms and equipment to Iraq, on the pretext of Europe's neutrality in our war with Iran.

[Na'na'] Despite the difficulties facing Iraqi-British relations, trade between the two countries is considerable. Is it because you, as a political leader, separate political and economic relations?

[Ramadan] We have no sensitivities concerning past colonialism. British colonialism harmed us a great deal, just as it did the other Arab states, especially in the Gulf region, starting with border demarcation and problems which are still difficult to resolve. During its presence in the region Britain tried to create sectarian feelings. It also tried to engender border disputes during its withdrawal.

But on the basis of our conviction that relations between states should be based on balanced interests, we opened channels with all the states of the world and determined the strength of our relations with states according to the strength of our mutual interests. We deal with Britain on such a basis, without separating politics from economics. We are trying to put a black page of history behind us and to make a fresh start with a positive spirit. [passage omitted]

U.S. policy toward the Arabs—and Iraq is part of the Arab nation—is drawn up by Zionist circles. Anything that affects Israel's interests is transformed into fixed principles within U.S. policy. The United States may seem lenient on some matters, but it will try to destroy and fight any change in the existing balance against Israel. Any Arab scientific progress disturbing the balance, on which Israel's regional strength is based, will be hit. We realize that U.S. policy toward Iraq, and U.S. relations with us and with any Arab state, can be balanced in light of joint interests, provided that Israeli security is not disrupted. Whenever Israel's security is affected, the United States has to back Israel—a fact which every Arab official must understand. They must understand that the United States will not back the Arabs against Israel, even if it is convinced that the Arabs are in the right. Do you think the United States is stupid and does not know that the Arabs are in the right? It knows that, but continues to be biased toward Israel. So what is proposed by some Arabs sounds futile. This includes moves on the U.S. scene and the holding of seminars to explain how the Palestinians are being tortured and how they have a right to self-determination. It is a waste of time: Daily the Europeans and the Americans see on their television screens what is happening in the occupied territories. But, despite this, they are encouraging the Jews there to emigrate to the "promised land." They know full well that that land is Arab territory and that the Jewish emigres' arrival there would be at the expense of expulsion of Arabs. Every day the West probably sees Palestine's territory more than it sees any other territory, but, despite that, the outcome is still negative. The wager on a change in U.S. and Western public opinion is improper, because Western and U.S. policy will not change because of that. This, however, does not belittle the importance of continuing Arab mobilization on the European and U.S. scenes in order to confront the Zionist media. But while doing so, we must realize that information action will not decide the question.

[Na'na'] You say that the United States was banking on toppling the Iraqi regime via Iran. How?

[Ramadan] True, one of the U.S. Administration's interests was to push Iran to fight Iraq and topple the regime. I was greatly alarmed in 1982 when Iraq withdrew to the international borders and when Iran announced that it would enter Basra, whose people would receive the Iranian Army with roses. The United States was fully convinced that the regime in Iraq would be toppled quickly and that it was only a matter of time. There was high mobilization in Iran at the time, there were huge numbers of fighters, and our borders at Basra were open and easily penetrated by any simple military move. Iran's intention was to occupy Basra, then the United States would work to issue an international cease-fire resolution. That way the Iraqi regime would have been, for all practical purposes, toppled, just as the 'Abd-al-Nasir regime was toppled in 1967, although it continued on for three years after that. If Iran had emerged victorious in 1982 and occupied Basra, the Iraqi regime would have been toppled, even if it had continued to exist. This would have been because Iraq would have become like any other state in the region, part of whose territory was occupied. Basra's occupation would practically and strategically have broken Iraq's pride. How can a regime whose territory is occupied progress and develop comfortably? And how can a leadership claim it has the right to rule once it has lost a part of its territory? [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] The issue of the spy, Bazoft, his confessions, his execution, and the uproar that followed it, raises some questions among observers...

[Ramadan] The uproar caused by Britain regarding the spy, Bazoft, was not normal. Many problems arise between states and can be resolved. Our relations with Britain, especially economic relations, were good. So why should Britain sacrifice all this for the sake of a person who was proven to be an Israeli spy? He did not have British nationality. All he had was a British travel document. Bazoft had been watched since his first visit. Everything he did was recorded. He was left alone right up to the moment when he wanted to supply some information; only then we stopped him. The British were angry at his execution, because they had given him cover and facilitated things for him. The British nurse was not his friend, as her daughter is of his age and married. British intelligence introduced him to her in order to provide him with the necessary items through her work at Ibn-al-Bitar Hospital. And, indeed, she provided him with doctor's clothing and got him into military installations posing as an Indian doctor. Although our information confirmed he was working for Israel, we asked the British charge d'affaires to attend the trial. We had

our reasons. We are in a state of war and we need no permission from anyone to put a spy on trial. But, by allowing the British charge d'affaires to attend, we wanted to make Britain realize what it had done. The consul also attended the trial and the British Embassy appointed a lawyer of its own choosing. But what was the result? Britain did not deal with the issue at a bilateral level; instead it contacted all the world's states. Then it sent messages and launched a campaign in its press, portraying Iraq as a country which is against human rights.

[Na'na'] Did you have information concerning an Israeli strike against Iraq before the president's address?

[Ramadan] Israel has been planning to hit Iraqi installations since 1986. One of the objectives of our announcement of the Al-Husayn missile in 1986 was to deter Israel and prevent it from embarking on an adventure. Perhaps the announcement was strange at the time, since no state would reveal its possession of a weapon before it was used. We announced our position in 1987, and in order for Israel to hear us, we said openly: We have information which confirms Israel's intention to hit Iraqi installations. If it attacks, we will retaliate. Having ascertained the existence of the missile, Israel has started to revise its calculations, but has yet to totally abandoned the idea. Its aim is still to hamper Iraq's attempts to achieve technological progress. This is because its existence is based on technological superiority, not geographical or demographic superiority. Thus it understands what Iraq's progress means. It does not accept 30-percent progress for any Arab state, even though it is 100-percent technologically advanced itself. This is a question about which Israel cannot be lenient, which is why it is working through its establishments in the West to launch successive campaigns against Iraq, portraying it as terrorist, against human rights, and a threat to Israel's security. The prime objective of these campaigns is to justify its actions if it embarks on with any aggressive act against Iraq. And you should be aware that that will never take place.

Oil Minister Stresses Reduced OPEC Production

JN0105182590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Geneva, 1 May (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi has affirmed that it is necessary for OPEC member countries to adhere to the established production quotas to maintain oil prices.

He said in a statement upon his arrival in Geneva, for the extraordinary meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Committee which will start tomorrow, that the current OPEC countries' production varies between 23.7 and 24 million barrels per day [bpd] and that OPEC countries must reduce this production to less than 22 million bpd to improve the prices.

He added that the OPEC countries must decrease their production to less than 22 million bpd for prices to regain their previous level in accordance with what was approved by the OPEC Ministerial Council in its Vienna meeting of last November.

He added that the Iraqi delegation wishes to see oil prices rise to $18 a barrel. OPEC countries had set an average target price of $18 per barrel for seven major types of crude produced by the 13 OPEC member states.

Shamir Pledges Support for 'Peace Initiative'

TA0105191190 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 May 90

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Baker said today that the U.S. Administration will continue pressuring Israel to promote the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

In reaction, the prime minister's bureau stated tonight that the remarks referred to by the U.S. State Department's spokeswoman were taken out of context. The prime minister reiterated his statement that his future government will be committed to the peace initiative, and that he, Shamir, will seek a way to attain close cooperation with the United States on the issue of the promotion of peace.

The prime minister's bureau averred that anyone who believes that the only way to promote peace is by saying "yes" to Baker is wrong, and that there are other ways. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that the prime minister's bureau did not elaborate on the alternative ways in which the peace initiative can be promoted.

Adviser Says 'Ubayd's Release Not Requested

TA0105192490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 May 90

[Excerpt] So far, Israel has not received a request from any country or group whatsoever calling for the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd in the framework of a package deal for the release of POW's and hostages. This statement was made tonight by Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser. Mr. Pazner told our correspondent that Israel is working assiduously, day and night, to secure the release of the Israeli POW's and is in constant contact with the United States concerning this issue.

Mr. Pazner's statement was issued in reaction to the remarks of U.S. President George Bush, who had called for the release of all the hostages. [passage omitted]

Arens Departs To Renew Relations with Bulgaria

TA0205080990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens left for a two-day visit to Bulgaria a short while ago. During his visit he will sign an agreement on the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Minister Arens was accompanied by his advisers and Moshe Melamed, director of the Foreign Ministry's East European Division. Mr. Melamed himself comes from Bulgaria.

Soldier Hurt in South Lebanon; SLA Troops Killed

TA0105134290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier sustained moderate injuries as he drove over a mine while performing a patrol tour of a security zone in south Lebanon this afternoon. His family has been notified. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe adds that the event occurred in the eastern sector, in the vicinity of the village of Balat.

This afternoon, SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers destroyed a terrorist vehicle north of the security zone. The vehicle exploded and burned, and the two or three terrorists who were inside were killed. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the incident began when machine gun fire was directed at an SLA position in the eastern sector. The SLA personnel located the source of fire, which was found to be a vehicle approaching the position from the north. As reported, they hit the vehicle, setting it on fire.

Hizballah Conditions for U.S. Hostages' Release

NC0105190790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] A leading member of Hizballah has told REUTER that Washington must try to secure the release of Arab detainees in Israeli prisons if it wants the six Americans who are still detained in Lebanon set free. The leading Hizballah member asserted that the release of American nationals Robert Polhill and Frank Reed was the result of Iranian pressure on those holding hostages in Lebanon.

Junblatt Reportedly Departs for U.S.

NC2904175890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] According to exclusive information received by the Voice of Lebanon, Minister Walid Junblatt last night received a telephone call. Afterwards, he left for the United States via Damascus Airport.

Resistance Attacks Lahd Position in South

NC3004190190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] National Resistance fighters of the Martyr Muhammad Azwar group and the Martyr Saqr group of the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces carried out an operation behind agent lines in the south this morning. They attacked a militia position inside the area where the militias and Israeli occupation forces are deployed. The attack completely destroyed the position and resulted in killing or wounding the personnel manning it.

Following the attack, violent clashes occurred between the Lahd militia and the positions of the Popular Liberation Army—the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces. Later the Lahd militia expanded the scope of its artillery shelling and shells fell in residential areas east of Sidon. No casualties were reported in the shelling.

Meanwhile, reports from the south said that a Lahd force consisting of 30 troops entered al-Tayyibah village and arrested six citizens. A similar force entered the village yesterday and arrested seven citizens.

'Awn Forces Shell Kasrawan, Other Areas

NC0205094990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Guarded calm currently prevails along the newly created combat lines in the eastern area following a large-scale escalation by 'Awn's gunmen which began yesterday at 2200. The Kasrawan coast, al- Dawrah, the outskirts of the Beirut port, and Sinn al-Fil were bombarded. This morning, 'Awn's gunmen bombarded Juniyah port, the outskirts of the patriarchate seat in Bkirki, and targets near the apostolic nunciature in Harisa; they also fired upon the ship, Sunny Boat.

Lebanese Forces Bar Ship From 'Illegal' Port

NC0205073290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 May 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff; date not given]

[Text] Between 1500 and 1900 on 1 May, a Lebanese Forces naval patrol intercepted a ship attempting to enter Lebanese territorial waters requesting that it identify itself and state its destination. The ship responded that it was the Virgin Butterfly and that its destination was the Golden Beach [under General 'Awn's control]. The patrol answered that this port was illegal and that the ship could enter the ports of Beirut, Tripoli, Juniyah, Sidon, or Tyre.

The ship insisted on approaching the Golden Beach, ignoring a warning from the patrol to alter its course. The Lebanese Forces naval patrol was thus compelled to fire warning shots over the ship, which then changed course and fled to international waters and an unknown destination.

The Lebanese Forces warn shipowners and travel agents not to send any ships to any illegal ports. These ships will be detained and presented to the responsible authorities.

[Paris AFP in English at 0714 GMT on 2 May reports: "LF [Lebanese Forces] naval patrols fired warning shots Tuesday [1 May] night at a passenger ferry linking the Christian areas to Cyprus and heading for the Golden Beach area, some 15 kilometers (nine miles) north of the capital. The ferry was forced to turn back, militia sources said."]

Soviet Envoy Details Recent Moscow Talks

JN0205061090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Damascus, Aleksandr Zotov, has stressed that the nature of Syrian-Soviet relations is very rich, and that during President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the USSR a vital exchange of opinions took place as well as an exchange of expertise in the fields of development in both countries. He said that the talks between both sides were characterized by an overall spirit of understanding.

At a news conference he held at the Soviet Embassy in Damascus last night, which was attended by a large number of journalists and media representatives, the ambassador stressed that existing relations between Syria and the USSR are exemplary. The Soviet ambassador pointed out that the Middle East issue was discussed in depth during the closed meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Mikhail Gorbachev. He said: The two sides stressed that there are actual positive developments in the world, and this gives hope that the international situation will restore its health.

The Soviet ambassador in Damascus added: There is no guarantee that the extremist Israelis will not carry out further aggression against Syria. Based on this, the USSR is ready, as it has always been, to contribute to guaranteeing Syria's security. This country should have a strong defensive base as long as the principles of justice do not prevail. The Soviet ambassador stressed that through close cooperation with their Syrian friends, the Soviets seek to extend help to see a stable peace established, and to use all means and ways necessary to achieve this objective.

The Soviet ambassador said: I believe that in the near future, when the way is paved for Soviet-U.S. dialogue, the issue of a settlement in the Middle East will gain serious interest. The Soviet ambassador added that at this stage, his country realizes the need for coordination with the Arab states, particularly Syria—this old, strong, and reliable partner. Zotov stressed that the Moscow meeting between the two great leaders, Hafiz al-Asad and Mikhail Gorbachev, has shown the firmness of Syrian-Soviet relations and the high level of understanding that the Soviet leadership shows in bolstering cooperation with friendly Syria.

The Soviet ambassador said: During the two presidents' talks, Soviet Jewish emigration was discussed within the context that the rights of certain people must not be guaranteed at the expense of others. The Soviet ambassador said that a Soviet economic delegation led by the Soviet energy minister will arrive in Syria after several days, and that discussion on military issues will continue through competent committees in both countries.

Following this, the Soviet ambassador answered reporters' questions. Answering a question concerning Israel's rejection of international resolutions and its refusal to abide by international charters, he said: Israel's general position is clear to the point where Presidents Gorbachev and al-Asad did not spend a long time discussing their position or the characteristics of Israel's policy.

Regarding current U.S. efforts, the ambassador said: These efforts themselves were an alternative to the plans set by the USSR, and which gained worldwide support for holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Answering another question on whether the Lebanese issue had been discussed during the meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus said: The Lebanese issue, including support for the al-Ta'if agreement, national accord, and the legitimate government in Lebanon were discussed. We noted the Syrian side's sincere concern for the interests of Lebanon, as a whole.

Egyptian President Mubarak Arrives in Damascus

JN0205083290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0818 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] At 1100 today, His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad; the president headed the receiving party for President Mubarak at Damascus airport.

Afghanistan

Politburo Member Critizes U.S. Stand on Elections

BK0105153090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 1 May 90

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Kabul, May 1 (AFP)—Elections could be held before the end of the year in Afghanistan if Washington would drop objections to President Najibullah's candidacy, a senior member of the ruling party said Tuesday [1 May]. A shift in U.S. policy is essential to end the 11-year-long war in which more than a million people have died, said Najmuddin Kawiani, 42, a Politburo member of the Moscow-backed People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

Mr. Kawiani called Washington's continued support to the Afghan resistance after the Soviet troop withdrawal from the country "a serious mistake" and likened it to Moscow's Afghan policy 12 years ago. "The Americans are unnecessarily getting involved in Afghanistan. They are now making the same mistake that (late Soviet President Leonid) Brezhnev made," Mr. Kawiani said, referring to the dispatch of Soviet soldiers into Afghanistan in December 1979.

"Depending on the United States' policy, it is possible for us to hold elections in Afghanistan by the end of the year," he told a group of foreign journalists at the PDPA's top-security headquarters here. However diplomats here said that organizing an election in the fragmented nation would be "a formidable task to say the least," and one commented that at least a year would be needed to prepare for nationwide polls.

Mr. Kawiani said Washington, which supports the Pakistan-based mujahidin position that President Najibullah should be barred from standing for office, should put pressure on the resistance groups to agree to a peace dialogue without preconditions to end the dragging conflict. The mujahidin brand Mr. Najibullah, who came to power in 1986 before the Soviet troop withdrawal, a Soviet puppet.

"There should be the participation of all forces sympathetic to peace," Mr. Kawiani said. "There shouldn't be any preconditions. It is our recommendation that there should be a direct dialogue with all parties to the conflict. This includes the present regime."

Mr. Kawiani, who is also a member of the country's Supreme Defence Council and the Politburo member in charge of international affairs, rejected the U.S. position that Mr. Najibullah should step down after launching a peace dialogue. "If the Americans can agree to elections in Nicaragua, why can't they agree to elections here?" Mr. Kawiani asked, stressing that Mr. Najibullah and the PDPA were prepared to accept the outcome of an election held under the supervision of the United Nations.

He dismissed the factionalized mujahidin attempts to organize elections in the provinces of Afghanistan without the participation of the PDPA on the basis that all forces in the country should take part. The senior PDPA member added that he was doubtful if the resistance could form a coherent front and that they did not enjoy widespread national support.

Mr. Kawiani also said Kabul welcomed a U.S. statement on February 5 agreeing to Mr. Najibullah convening a peace dialogue. But demanding his resignation before the conclusion of a possible peace negotiation was to prejudge the outcome of such an effort, he said.

His remarks came a day after Politburo member Farid Mazdak announced that a state of emergency in force since the Soviet withdrawal in February last year would be lifted on May 20, clearing the way for Mr. Najibullah to introduce sweeping reforms to end the civil war. Mr. Mazdak said the PDPA was trying to erase its pro-communist image and would shortly introduce economic and political pluralism ahead of national elections in a bid to end the war. Both men stressed that the PDPA's aim was to restore peace with the participation of all opposition groups inside and outside the country.

Mr. Kawiani rejected a demand by the mujahidin resistance Etehad-e Eslami (Islamic Union for the Liberation of Afghanistan) led by 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf to ban women from participating in future elections. "In fact, we want to increase the women's share in the national assembly from the present 12 percent. The American taxpayers should realise that their money is being spent on men like Sayyaf to fight the government," he said.

He also charged that there were serious contradictions in American policy towards Afghanistan. While Washington did not recognise the Afghanistan Interim Government based in Pakistan, it sent special envoy Peter Tomsen to deal with the group which consists of seven mujahidin factions.

Najibullah Message to Workers on May Day

LD0105212690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 May 90

[May Day message to workers from President Najibullah, read by 'Abdul Satar Purdeli, chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan; live or recorded]

[Text] Noble workers and toilers of the country: On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, I offer my congratulations on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the day of international solidarity of the world workers to you patriotic workers and toilers of Afghanistan. This year, 1 May is being celebrated in conditions which our workers are bravely progressing in the second year of the independent defense of the Republic of Afghanistan to produce and secure the materials needed by the people and to bravely defend their workplaces by forming independent battalions and brigades, and contribute to the implementation of

nationai reconciliation and the restoration of total national peace. There will be no greater honor for the people of our country than the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, thereby curbing the way of violence, murder and looting, fratricide and the destructive war, and not allowing the heart of a miserable person in this land to be felled by a bullet.

I call on you toilers of the country, you who have fought on two fronts over the past 10 years with complete determination and patriotic spirit, carrying out your historic duties in fighting against the enemies of the homeland and in reconciliation, and also on the front of work and production and have not spared a breath over this time to better the living conditions in Afghanistan, to struggle for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy.

Right now you are standing heroically in the ranks of work and production at the forefront of all other social forces for the implementation of national reconciliation despite the complexity and confusion of the situation, and are making the Republic of Afghanistan confident of the absolute success of national reconciliation. I wish you further success in all aspects of life and work [words indistinct] and the best progress and successes and inventions in the process of work and production.

I congratulate you workers and all toilers of our dear country of Afghanistan on 1 May. I am confident that the road of work and struggle in our country will proceed until total victory, ensuring coexistence among all Afghans as a result of your valor. It will not be long before Afghans celebrate that day with hearts imbued with sincerity. Success comes from God.

'Gala Function' in Kabul Marks May Day

LD0205062790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 1, BAKHTAR—With the read-out of the congratulatory message of Najibullah president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) by 'Abdul Satar Purdeli, chairman of the Central Council of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan (TUA), the 100th anniversary of the International Solidarity Day of the Workers of the World was marked in a gala function held today in Kabul, reports a correspondent of BAKHTAR. The function was attended by the leading body of the Central Council of the TUA, representatives and leading bodies of the political parties and social organisations of the country as well as the leading body of the trade unions of science, and culture, public health, mines and industries, trade and transport, heros of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] and a large number of model workers of the productive and economic enterprises of the Kabul city.

Then the congratulatory message of the Central Council of the TUA, and that of the World Federation of the Trade Unions, addressed to the world workers were read-out by the activists of the TUA.

Meanwhile, speakers in their speeches talked on the significance of the May 1st and the eminent role of the workers of the country for the enhancement of the production levels of the productive and economic enterprises of Afghanistan, providing essential goods for the people, independently defending the country and implementation of the policy of national reconciliation aimed at ensurance of peace and cessation of war in the country.

At the end of this function gifts and merit letters were handed over by the Central Council of the TUA to a number of exemplery workers of different productive and economic enterprises of the country. Cultural displays devoted to the anniversary were also performed.

According to other reports similar functions were also convocated in different productive and economic establishments of the country throughout Afghanistan where speakers talked on the history of the International Solidarity Day of Workers and appreciated their painstaking works for upgrading the productive level, safeguarding country, and implementation of the policy of national reconciliation. Model workers of the provinces were also appreciated in these functions by receiving gifts and merit letters.

Mujahidin Down Helicopter, Jet Fighter in Paghman

BK0205085590 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have shot down a helicopter and a jet fighter of the Kabul regime in Paghman valley, killing all the crew members and pilots on board. They are also reported to have killed 20 soldiers during their attacks on a security post of the Kabul regime in (Manizai) region near Khowst.

Mopping Up Operations Continue in Paghman

LD0105194490 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Units and companies of Kabul garrison yesterday and today continued the mopping up operations that began in Paghman district some time ago. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports

that during the mopping up activities carried out in the last two days, 25 Pakistani-linked extremists, including Shukrollah, a right-leader of the Rabbani extremist group, were killed. Some 30 surface-to-surface missiles of the U.S.-made Sakr-30 type, 12 missile rockets, 50 mortar mines, 20 rocket shells, 50 antipersonnel mines, one enemy food store, and a quantity of antistate leaflets were seized by the armed forces.Also during the operations a quantity of enemy weapons and ammunition were destroyed and more than 200 antipersonnel mines belonging to them were blown up.

Opposition Sells 21 Surface-to-Surface Missiles

LD0105171590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] As many as 21 surface-to-surface missiles have been purchased from the opposition armed groups in the area of Koh-e Safi in line with Decree 204. The military section of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that the other side has been paid for the missiles.

Bangladesh

Further Reportage on Visit of Japan's Kaifu

Meets Ershad, Offers Loan

OW0105193790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1521 GMT 1 May 90

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Excerpts] Dhaka, May 1 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Bangladeshi President Hussain Mohammad Ershad called on Tuesday for the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts, Japanese officials said. The two leaders specifically discussed rising tensions between India and Pakistan over Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said.

Ershad urged Japan to play a larger role in helping settle conflicts in Asia, the officials said. [passage omitted]

The Japanese prime minister, in a reference to the Kashmiri dispute, said conflicts in Asia should be resolved in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation.

Earlier in the day, Kaifu flew to Dhaka from New Delhi on the second leg of a nine-day South Asian tour, becoming the first Japanese prime minister ever to visit Bangladesh since it became independent from Pakistan in 1972.

Bangladeshi Air Force F-7 fighters escorted Kaifu's special flight to Dhaka airport.

Kaifu and his wife Sachiyo were greeted by Ershad and his wife Raushan at the airport, and viewed an honor guard which gave him a 21-gun salute. About 50,000-60,000 well wishers greeted Kaifu's delegation in a 12-kilometer line on both sides of the street from the airport to the state guesthouse.

Soon after his arrival, Kaifu went into a summit session with the Bangladeshi president at his office. The meeting covered international and bilateral affairs and lasted for about 90 minutes.

During the talks, the Japanese prime minister offered to extend a loan package of 31.2 billion yen to Bangladesh this year, the officials said. The total includes 27.4 billion yen in official development assistance and a 3.8 billion yen special loan to help Bangladesh overcome its energy difficulties.

Japan is the largest aid provider to Bangladesh, which is considered one of the poorest among developing countries with a population of some 110 million.

Ershad urged Japan not to sacrifice Asia in extending economic assistance, expressing concern that Japan might focus its economic support on Eastern Europe in the wake of rapid democratization moves there, Japanese officials said. Kaifu assured Ershad that Japan will not reduce its economic assistance to developing Asian countries, despite its pledge of assistance to Eastern Europe.

Ershad asked for Japan's assistance on a massive bridge project designed to span the Jamuna River, which divides Bangladesh to the east and west. The Japanese prime minister, acknowledging the importance of the bridge project in order to promote economic development in Bangladesh, responded in a positive manner but called for participation of the Asian Development Bank and World Bank, the officials said. Kaifu told Ershad that Japan will send a team of experts to conduct feasibility studies of the project.

Ershad thanked Kaifu for Japan's relief aid following disastrous floods which hit his country in 1987 and 1988, killing more than 4,000 people. He also asked Japan to support its flood prevention efforts. Kaifu promised to help Bangladesh in cooperation with the World Bank.

Kaifu also offered to extend about 340,000 dollars from UNESCO's Japan trust fund to help preserve remains at Paharpur, where a 9,000-square-meter, eight-century Buddhist relic is located in northern Bangladesh, the officials said.

Dhaka-Chittagong Bridge Opened

OW0105193890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1554 GMT 1 May 90

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] Dhaka, May 1 KYODO—Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad said on Tuesday that the Meghna Bridge symbolizes the eternal friendship between Bangladesh and Japan. Ershad made the remark when he attended a ceremony with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to open the 930-meter bridge spanning the Meghna River near Dhaka.

Kaifu was pleased to attend the ceremony, saying "I will not be able to forget the bridge after such a warm welcome from the Bangladeshi people." The bridge, which connects Dhaka and Chittagong, was constructed with a 7.9 billion yen in grant from Japan.

Following the opening ceremony, Kaifu flew by helicoper to the Savar national memorial commemorating those who died in the war of independence with Pakistan in 1972. Kaifu placed a wreath on the monument and planted trees nearby as a gesture of respect for the fallen.

Kaifu Pledges Support at Banquet

OW0205002790 Tokyo KYODO in English 2332 GMT 1 May 90

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] Dhaka, May 2 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu pledged as much support as possible for Bangladesh on Tuesday night to help it promote economic development. He made the pledge at a banquet in his honor given by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his wife Raushan at the presidential office.

In a 90-minute meeting with Ershad earlier Tuesday, the Japanese premier offered to extend a loan package of 31.2 billion yen to Bangladesh this year, Japanese officials said. The amount includes 27.4 billion yen in official development assistance and a 3.8 billion yen special loan to help Bangladesh overcome its energy difficulties.

Responding to a request from Ershad for help in building a bridge across the Jamuna River—the lower part of the Brahmaputra River—Kaifu said Japan will send a team of experts to make a feasibility study. While acknowledging the importance of the bridge project in promoting economic development, he called for the participation of the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Kaifu is to leave Dhaka on Wednesday for Pakistan, the third stop on a nine-day South Asian tour that started with a weekend visit to India. He said at the banquet that his tour, which will also take him to Sri Lanka and Indonesia, is aimed at deepening relations between Japan and the five countries. "I am now convinced that the aim of my trip will be accomplished with the help of all of you," he added.

Kaifu praised the efforts of the people of Bangladesh to develop their country, and said, "Bangladesh is making economic and industrial achievements step by step."

Vice President Moudud Ahmed and Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed were also present at the banquet.

In their meeting, Kaifu and Ershad called for the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts, and specifically discussed rising tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the officials said. Moslem separatists in the Indian part of the territory, which is divided between Pakistan and India, have been involved in clashes with the authorities Since january.

Kaifu urged Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh on Sunday to exercise self-restraint over Kashmir, and he is expected to make a similar plea to Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in their meeting Wednesday. He told Ershad that conflicts in Asia should be resolved in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation.

Departs for Pakistan 2 May

BK0205042590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0007 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Dhaka, May 2 (AFP)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu left here Wednesday [2 May] for Pakistan, ending a brief visit during which he announced 31.2 billion yen (208 million dollars) in low-interest loans to Bangladesh, officials said. Mr. Kaifu arrived here Tuesday from India on the second leg of his whirlwind five-nation Asian tour that will also take him to Sri Lanka and Indonesia before returning home Sunday.

Japan is the top donor for this South Asian nation of 110 million people and Mr. Kaifu was the first Japanese prime minister to visit Bangladesh since it seceded from Pakistan in 1971.

During his 21-hour hectic stay, Mr. Kaifu held talks with his host President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on bilateral economic cooperation and also on regional and international issues.

He jointly inaugurated with Mr. Ershad Bangladesh's longest highway bridge near Dhaka built with an 80 million dollar Japanese grant, laid a wreath at the National Memorial for Martyrs at suburban Savar and attended a state banquet late Tuesday.

The new loan package of 31.2 billion yen for fiscal 1990-91, is 3.7 billion yen (23 million dollars) more than the current fiscal year's level of 27.5 billion yen (173.5 million dollars). The commitment excludes annual grants and commodity aid Japan also provides to Bangladesh, whose major development projects are entirely dependent on foreign aid. Informed sources said further Japanese commitment for the next fiscal year, if any, would be announced on the basis of a report of a Japanese mission which recently visited Bangladesh.

India

Gujral: Pakistani Suggestion on Kashmir Rejected

BK0205092290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] India has rejected a Pakistani suggestion to have a neutral surveillance mechanism in regard to Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan has been told that such an idea is neither helpful nor feasible and that both countries had already agreed on the irrelevance of any third party involvement under the Simla accord.

The external affairs minister disclosed this in the Lok Sabha today while making a statement on his recent talks with the foreign minister of Pakistan at New York. Mr. I.K. Gujral said that during the talks, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan made the patently propaganda suggestion to invite the United Nations or an outside agency to, what he said, confirm the factual situation on the ground. He was told that no international agency could effectively monitor clandestine assistance to terrorists. Mr. Gujral made it

clear that Pakistan will have to take remedial action, apply restraint, and stop supporting terrorism and subversion in India.

Singh Discusses Kashmir, Defense Allocations

BK2804092090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has asserted that there will be no let up in the drive against the terrorists and the secessionists in the Kashmir valley. In an informal talk with newsmen after the defense investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] today, the prime minister said at the same time the government will concentrate on solving the people's problems by developmental activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to a question, he said the arrest of persons involved in the kidnapping of Dr. Rubia, daughter of the home minister, was the result of the sustained action by the security forces against the terrorists.

He declined to comment on the stand taken by Pakistan during the recent talks at New York between the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan till Mr. Gujral returns home.

The prime minister indicated that additional allocation for defense expenditure may be necessary in view of the deteriorating security environment. He said the present allocation is inadequate. For the past two years the defense expenditure was practically frozen, and in real terms it had reduced owing to inflation. Mr. V.P. Singh referred to the single-minded pursuit of Pakistan in creating tension on the borders and said the policy of the government has to be clear and decisive.

On granting statehood to Delhi, he said the government is considering two options on the issue and will be discussing the matter with the concerned authorities.

Replying to various questions, Mr. Singh said the government will soon announce the setting up of a high-level committee to review the national education policy.

He said the government will wait for the report of the inquiry committee before taking a decision on airbus A-320 as we cannot compromise with the safety of the passengers.

The prime minister denied press reports that Mr. George Fernandes has resigned as the minister for Kashmir Affairs.

Minister Says Officials Do Not Differ on Kashmir

BK0105160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] The curfew was relaxed in Srinagar city and other major towns of the Kashmir Valley for two hours from 1600 this evening. Earlier, an eight-hour curfew relaxation was withdrawn in these areas to facilitate search operations for nabbing subversives.

Meanwhile, security forces arrested a top terrorist belonging to the outlawed Hezbul Mujahidin organization while attempting to cross over the border. Four militants were taken into custody today in Anantnag District in the continued house-to-house search operations. The Delhi Police also arrested a hard-core militant in the capital today.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu today, the minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandes, said there are no differences between him, the home minister, and the state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan in the approach to deal with the Kashmir problem. He said if at all there is a differences it lies only in emphasis in regard to strategies adopted in dealing with the subversives. Mr. Fernandes said the situation in Kashmir has to be viewed on a longer perspective and not on a day-to-day basis.

Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr. Krishen Lal Sharma, said the National Front government should not allow any setback to the successful efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, to restore normalcy in the valley. The state governor should be given a free hand in tackling the Kashmir problem.

Minister: Pakistan 'Isolated' on Kashmir Issue

BK3004082990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] The union minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, has said that almost all the nations, including Arab countries, have endorsed India's stand on Kashmir, and it shows positive achievement of our foreign policy. Speaking to newsmen at Patna airport, he said Pakistan now stands isolated on the Kashmir issue. The minister emphasized India's desire for good relations with all countries and said it would not compromise with its territorial integrity and sovereignty under any circumstances.

Mr. Kishore Singh also referred to close cultural and historical ties with Nepal and declared that India would favorably consider any constructive proposal for strengthening age-old ties between the two countries.

V.P. Singh Receives Sri Lankan Counterpart

BK0105132990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has told Sri Lanka to fulfill its commitment to ensure the safety and security of all communities in the Northeastern Province. This will help the early return of the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India back to their home.

Mr. V.P. Singh conveyed this to the visiting prime minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Wijetunge, when he called on him in New Delhi this afternoon.

Conveying the warm regards of President Premadasa to Mr. Singh, Mr. Wijetunge appreciated the good work and the role played by the peacekeeping force and the completion of its deinduction. Both agreed that concrete steps should be taken to strengthen the cooperation between the two nations. It was suggested that the joint economic commission of the two countries, which did not meet since September 1987, should meet early.

V.P. Singh Meets Nepalese Finance Minister

BK0205085990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] The finance minister of Nepal, Mr. Devendra Raj Pandey, called on the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in New Delhi yesterday. He handed over a letter from the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Bhattarai, to Mr. Singh.

Devi Lal Returns, Comments on Trip to China

BK0205090590 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] The deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has returned to New Delhi after his visit to China, where he attended the FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization] regional conference. Mr. Devi Lal also visited three Chinese villages—(Kapchu), (Xichixiang), (Liangchiachu). He witnessed agricultural and industrial activities progressing simultaneously in these villages. He took note of the adoption of modern technology, as he had seen the use of a 12-horsepower small tractor to suit local farm requirements. Mr. Devi Lal was accorded a warm welcome by the villagers. Mr. Devi Lal said that the concept of modern villages in China could be experimented in India also.

Afghans Rally in New Delhi Against Najibullah

BK2904091090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0851 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 29 (AFP)—Some 250 Afghan refugees rallied here Sunday [29 April] to demand the removal of Afghanistan President Najibullah as a condition of accepting elections in their war-ravaged country. The Afghans, including dozens of children, marched from a World War I monument called India Gate to a sprawling ground about a kilometer (half mile) away, waving banners and shouting anti-Najibullah slogans. The demonstration was peaceful and the refugees dispersed after attending a meeting addressed by leaders from the Hezb-e Eslami, one of the groups fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul.

A statement issued at the meeting listed eight demands, including the removal of "the present puppet and criminal regime" of Najibullah as the first step towards a "free and fair election in Afghanistan." "Hereafter nobody can rule Afghanistan without the consent of the mujahidin," the statement added, and demanded that the mujahidin be permitted to have a say in the formation of a new government in Kabul.

The Hezb-e Eslami also urged the Indian Government to distance itself from the Najibullah regime and follow "a further realistic path in regard to the Afghan problem." India, which has close ties with the Soviet Union, is one of the few non-communist backers of the Kabul government.

Five New Governors Appointed; Three Resign

BK2704034890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Five new governors have been appointed. According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] communique issued in New Delhi yesterday [26 April], Mr. D.D. Thakur will be the new governor for Assam; Mr. Mahipal Shastri for Gujarat; Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh for Karnataka; Mr. M.M.Thomas for Nagaland with additional charge of Arunachal Pradesh; and Mr. Madhukar Dige for Meghalaya.

The communique also said that the president has accepted the resignations of the Gujarat governor, Mr. R.K. Trivedi; Dr. Gopal Singh, governor of Nagaland; and Mr. A.A. Rahim, governor of Meghalaya.

Wife of Gandhi Assassin Takes Lok Sabha Oath

BK2704022890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Mrs. Bimal Kaur Khalsa [wife of Beant Singh, one of the assassins of Indira Gandhi] of the Akali Dal-Mann today took the oath as a member of the Lok Sabha. Mrs. Khalsa on two earlier occasions had come to the vicinity of Parliament House and gone back without taking the oath along with her party leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, and her party colleague, Mr. Dhyan Singh Mann, both of whom have been elected to the Lok Sabha.

Kidnapping of Minister's Daughter 'Solved'

BK2704151990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government today claimed to have solved the mystery surrounding the kidnapping of Dr. Rubia Sayeed, youngest daughter of the union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, on 7 December last year.

The state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, said the kidnappers included top terrorists and their close associates as well as some senior and middle-level government employees. The conspiracy to kidnap Dr. Rubia was hatched in the house of an underground militant, (Mushtaq Ahmad Lund), at Chanapura in Srinagar. The so-called area commander of the militants, Ashfaq Majid Wani, who was involved in the plot, was killed in an encounter with the BSF [Border Security Force]. Two other terrorist members of the JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation

Front] have since been arrested. The self-styled commander in chief of the JKLF force involved in the kidnap was also believed to be dead.

The governor said some of the officials involved in the plot have been arrested. Some more persons connected with the case have been identified. The governor lauded the role of the BSF officers and men who had worked in coordination with other agencies to uncover the kidnapping in record time.

Border Forces Kill 4 Intruders From Pakistan

BK2804010090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2201 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 27 (AFP)—Indian paramilitary Border Security Forces (BSF) have shot dead four alleged border intruders from Pakistan in the northwestern desert state of Rajasthan, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Friday [27 April]. PTI said five unidentified men were intercepted by the BSF troopers when they tried to enter India in Rajasthan's Raisinghnagar area Wednesday [25 April]. Four were shot dead in a gunfight, while one fled, the news agency said.

Eight 'Top Militants' Arrested in Srinagar

BK0105030290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] In Kashmir, security forces have achieved yet another breakthrough by arresting eight top militants yesterday during the raids in Srinagar city. They include a self-styled area commander of the outlawed JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front]. Two subversives involved in the killing of Mr. Bansi Lal, a telecommunication employee, at (Achaval) a few days ago have also been arrested. The number of subversives arrested in the current drive has touched about 600.

The authorities have started to withdraw the curfew relaxation in Srinagar city today as announced earlier. A decision about the relaxation will be taken this afternoon. Meanwhile, the state government has announced a holiday in the state on account of May Day today.

'Some' Feared Dead, Injured in Delhi Bus Bombing

BK3004155690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] A report received a short while ago says some people are feared killed and many injured, some of them seriously, in a bomb explosion in northwest Delhi this evening. The explosion occurred in a moving bus under DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] operation near Pitampura. Details are awaited.

Four 'Terrorists' Among Seven Killed in Punjab

BK2804161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, four terrorists and a BSF [Border Security Force] subinspector were among seven people killed today. The security forces arrested eight terrorists. The terrorists fired at a BSF party, killing a subinspector and wounding three jawans [soldiers] in Simbal Chowk in Batala. Three terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces near village Murki in Ferozepore District, and another terrorist was killed in intergang rivalry in Jullundur District. Eight terrorists were arrested in Amritsar, Bhatinda, Kapurthala, and Jullundur Districts. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them.

Bomb Detection Averts 'Major Tragedy' in Amritsar

BK2804160290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, the timely detection and defusion of a powerful time bomb averted a major tragedy in Amritsar this evening. According to an official spokesman, a passerby found an unclaimed briefcase lying in a locality opposite the local railway station at about 1600 this evening and immediately informed the police. The police immediately cordoned off the area and defused the time bomb contained in the briefcase.

Shoot-on-Sight Orders Issued in Tamil Nadu Areas

BK2804033890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, shoot-at-sight orders have been issued in Rajapalaiyam and the surrounding areas in Kamraj District following violent incidents during the last one week. Reports say the situation is under control and the police are patrolling the disturbed localities. Prohibitory orders enforced from Tuesday [24 April] have been extended for another two days.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Accuses U.S. of 'Terrorism'

LD0105171990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] With regard to the annual report by the U.S. State Department to that country's Congress in which Iran has been presented as a supporter of terrorism, the spokesperson for our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the package of policies which America, as a domineering power on a global scale, has followed with regard to the Third World countries, and specifically the Islamic Republic of Iran, is the complete epitome of state-sponsored terrorism. The accusation of terrorism hurled at a country which herself has been a victim of

terrorism and has, based on Islamic principles, always opposed terrorism, is nothing but an attempt to deceive public opinion.

He said that measures such as destabilizing independent governments, resorting to coercion to change the sovereignty of independent countries, attempting to assassinate leaders of countries, planting bombs to kill religious leaders, attacking a passenger airliner, kidnapping, and tens of other acts of terrorism, in which a large number of ordinary and innocent people were killed, cannot be called anything but terrorism organized and guided by a government.

Further on Kharrazi Remarks on Hostages

LD0105202890 Tehran IRNA in English 1943 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] London, 1 Apr (IRNA)—Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, has repeated Iran's concerns over the plight of four Iranians, who were taken hostage by Western-backed Lebanese-Christian Phalangists in 1982. Following the release on Monday [30 April] of American Frank Reed from captivity in Lebanon, he said that "basically we are also victims of this issue."

Speaking on BBC 2 television's "Newsnight' programme on Monday night, Dr. Kharrazi also repeated that the exerting of Iranian influence on the hostage-takers, "does not have any pre-conditions." But he stated that "the only thing that we believe will facilitate the release of other (Western) hostages, is the exerting of influence of other countries (in the West) on the related parties (Israel and the Phalange), to release the other hostages (Iranian Lebanese and Palestinians)."

Iran's ambassador to the UN, referring again to the issue of the Iranians held hostage now for 8 years by Lebanese Christians, also mentioned that "recently there has been information from (Lebanese Christian groups and leaders) that the four Iranians are still alive, so we expect (Western) countries to exert their influence on the Phalangists to release their hostages."

He also pointed out that there remain several hundred captives in the hands of Israel and he insisted that "there should be some pressure on Israel" to release them. This, he believed, "would certainly facilitate the release of other (Western) hostages."

Asked whether he "unreservedly condemns the circumstances under which (Frank Reed) was held," he stressed that Iran has "already condemned the issue of hostage-keeping and is basically against such inhumanitarian actions."

Iran's UN ambassador reminded viewers, however, that "the Muslim people of Lebanon have been under attack and have faced a lot of grievances." He strongly urged that "somehow," all these issues "be taken into consideration."

When asked about British hostages in Lebanon, Dr. Kharrazi diplomatically answered that Iran has done its "best for humanitarian reasons to see the release of all hostages, regardless of their nationalities."

Last Monday, on the same programme, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, asked America and Britain to join Iran and Lebanese and Palestinian groups to cooperate in achieving the release of "all hostages" held in Lebanon and Israel. He asked Britain to use its influence on the Christian Phalange in Lebanon, to obtain the release of the Iranian hostages.

Dr. Velayati emphasised the fact that at least three of the four Iranian hostages are alive and they should be released from captivity, urgently. He reminded the viewers that these Iranian hostages have been held at least three years longer than any Western hostage, and it was the Christian militias that began the spiral of hostage-taking in Lebanon.

He also indicated that despite this and state-sponsored terrorism by Israel, which kidnapped and held hostage more than 300 Muslims, the Western media has consistently tried to lay the blame at the door of the Muslim world, particularly on the revolutionary Muslims of Iran and Lebanon.

Khamene'i Assails Idea of Negotiating With U.S.

LD0205103190 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Tehran, 2 May (IRNA)—The leader of the Islamic revolution said here Wednesday [2 May], "Those who think we must open negotiations with the United States, are either simple-minded or terrified."

Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i addressing a group of visiting teachers and educational officials of the country who called on the leader on the occasion of the teacher's day, made the remark in reference to the recent controversy over an article printed in an afternoon daily last Thursday [26 April] favoring direct talks with the United States.

"I am against holding negotiations with the United States, and the Islamic Republic Government would not possibly do so without my consent. They (the government) are naturally against such a thing," noted the leader.

He said that he had emphatically stressed that survival of the international hegemony depended on the degree of terror it created in various parts of the world.

At present, Ayatollah Khamene'i said, the U.S. attitude toward the Third World countries and recently towards the rich nations is as such that these nations could not even "dare to breathe if it (the United States) did not allow them to do so."

"If only a handful of dispossessed nations of the world, not to mention the rich, got united and decide to fear the United States no more...and did not allow it to exploit them geopolitically, militarily and economically, they

could force the United States to retreat. Not only the United States but the whole of the world arrogance," the leader told the visitors.

Therefore, he added, wherever in the world an oppressed nation launched a revolution and its government did not yield into the U.S. pressure and blackmail, the United States would employ all its might to remove that government.

"Because, they (the United States) fear and know well that they could not guarantee their interests with a revolutionary government whether in Latin America or the far end of Africa," said the leader.

He noted: "If the United States was able to remove the Islamic Republic during the past 11 years, certainly it would have done so. But, it has failed."

He said that the United States has done nothing for its client states and their lackey heads of state "either in the form of solving their problems or making them wealthy."

On the contrary, Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed, "those countries which opened their doors to this treacherous thief, allowed it enter and plunder whatever available."

Elsewhere in his speech, the leader recommended men of letters not to be agitated by controversial statements and noted that political opinions should be expressed as long as they are free of "fabrication, accusation or deceit".

"Why should we be agitated? We are armed with logic and reason. Our words are accepted not only by our people but by hundreds of millions of Muslims and non-Muslims the world over," Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasised.

Of course, he stresed, we should not worry about what others say when we have a logical answer. However, any illogical statement must be responded while ethics are observed.

Further elaborating on direct talks, the leader said: "Do you think the problem will be solved merely by holding negotiations with the U.S.? This is not true. In diplomatic language negotiations is a deal."

Therefore, he added, to deal with the U.S. is to give something and receive something else in return.

"What do you plan to give the U.S. from the Islamic revolution to receive something in return? What is the U.S. after? Nothing more than our adherence to Islam has annoyed the U.S.. It wants you to give up your commitment to Islam."

Speaking on the hostages, the leader said "They say let's deal on the hostages. This too is simple-mindedness. We have already announced that we are willing, as far as we are able, to see the hostages freed. We do not control the hostage-takers. They are oppressed people who, on various grounds, have the hostages in their control."

He noted that as far as it did not contradict the Islamic republic's principles, Iran would help (the release of hostages) not for the sake of the U.S. but for humanitarian reasons.

"The Americans are not bound to international principles and regulations. It was the U.S. Administration which ordered its criminal officer to shoot down an (Iranian) passenger plane with hundreds on board over the sea and failed in putting him on trial. The U.S. President instead has awarded him."

Ayatollah Khamenei' welcomed the idea of active diplomacy, stressing that the Foreign Ministry should be active at international level excluding certain areas. "There is a forbidden zone which should not be trespassed."

He called on the people to unite their ranks and by relying on God even make the enemies to respect them.

"We do not need our sworn enemies such as the U.S. to sympathize with us and we are by no means after holding negotiations and establishing relations with them," concluded the leader.

Mohajerani Defends Personal View in Article

LD0105173190 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Tehran, 1 May (IRNA)—Vice President 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani today defended his viewpoints in relation with an article of his which was published in the Persian daily ETTELA'AT Thursday [26 April]. He said in reply to critical responses published in the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Tuesday morning [1 May] that the views which appeared in the article are solely his, and that because President Hashemi-Rafsanjani advocates free speech by persons with expert knowledge of topics he published his views in the daily Thursday under his own total responsibility.

Mohajerani said that he need further elaborate on various points of his article to answer to questions and clear every doubt or misunderstanding which might have arisen in the minds of some readers in connection with that article.

The article by Vice Presdient Mohajerani which appeared in the Persian daily ETTELA'AT Thursday engendered harsh criticism for his advocacy of direct talks between Iran and the U.S.

Paper Urges 'Constant' Foreign Relations

LD2904103590 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, 29 April (IRNA)—A morning daily Sunday [29 April] commented on recent developments in Eastern bloc and noted that now communism was part of the history. The daily 'ABRAR' in an editorial wrote that contrary to materialistic tendencies, divine beliefs are not confined to a certain place or a limited period of time.

The Islamic revolution of Iran, the article stressed, proved that human evolution relied on morality and that time would only help emergence of unfulfilled desires. Under the status quo, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the

savior of the deprived masses, has awakened the oppressed and accelerated their liberation movements despite disapproval of the tyrant world powers, the daily said. Strong resistance of the Islamic republic against various outside plots, aggressions and pressures is a great victory proving continuity of the Islamic movement, wrote the editorial.

However, it noted, in order to achieve sublime objectives of the Islamic revolution and maintain strong presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran at international arena, constant relations with other nations was needed.

The paper concluded by saying: "At the time when we are honored to represent an examplary Islamic society while safeguarding Islam and independence and promulgating justice and equity, no power could force us to accept submission."

Larijani on U.S.-Israeli Pressure on Iraq

NC0105113290 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Javad Larijani, Foreign Ministry adviser: "The Various Aspects of the Conspiracy"]

[Text] 1. Recently some U.S. senators visited Iraq so that they could come to a decision on future U.S. aid to Iraq. During the visit they had detailed discussions with Saddam Husayn, the head of the Iraqi regime. On their return to the United States they announced in an interview that : "Saddam suffers from war melancholia (psychosis)."

This is nothing new to our nation. During the eight-year imposed war, Saddam perpetrated thousands of heinous atrocities, each one of which is enough to prove the veracity of this statement. The question that arises is: Why did the senators wake up to this so late in the day and why did they not deduce this fact during their talks with the Iraqi ruler before the war?

It suffices to read the interview with patience. In giving a reason for his claim, the U.S. senator speaks about Saddam's war psychosis and says: "Saddam refused to sit at the same table as Israel for negotiations!" A hint is enough for a wise man!

2. The present U.S.-Israeli pressure on Iraq is not aimed at toppling the Saddam regime or undermining his power. Iraq has proved that if necessary Saddam can provide excellent service to the United States and Israel. The pressure is merely to "bleed him dry" even further.

The United States and the Soviet Union are endeavoring to resolve the Palestinian question in the present atmosphere, which is being propounded as "the era of the solution of regional problems." In other words, perhaps they wish to liberate Israel from internal and external tension. This is because it is not known whether, in the future multipolarized world, it will be as economical to defend Israel as it was in the past.

Th Soviet-U.S. leaders have placed this issue on the agenda of their next meeting and have adopted an "attitude" of earnestness which seems to indicate that "some conclusive measures will be taken." In this regard, there is no mention of the rights of the Palestinians, where they will reside, or of any future independent government for them! Even if there is, there seems to be no consensus on it.

The only point on which there seems to be some sort of concurrence is the inclusion of the Arabs, and Syria in particular, in direct talks and a final peace resolution with Israel. For this purpose, they could not find anyone more suitable than Saddam, so they decided that Saddam should bring his ties with Israel out into the open and should relieve the more "hesitant" Arab countries of this obligation. Then they could exert pressure and impose embargoes on Syria to make it hold direct talks with Israel.

Obviously, Saddam is a trifle apprehensive about this and his attempts to resist indicate his ultimate "surrender." This show of some resistance seems, in fact, a part of the charade, as Saddam's interests also lie in this minor display of "anti-Zionism." This means that not only will U.S., Western, and Israeli aid to Iraq not be discontinued, but the U.S.-Israeli plan is that, in future, they should see even more extensive and overt cooperation between Iraq and Israel and Saddam should be the bearer of the flag of Israel's ultimate interests. Only one factor can foil this plot, and that is the vigilance of the Muslims, especially the Islamic Movement, in the Arab world. Islamic Iran should be fully aware of what its dignity demands in this regard.

Habibi, Hungarian Envoy Discuss Palestine

LD0105105190 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Tehran, 1 May (IRNA)—A ranking official Monday [30 April] expressed Iran's "deep concern" with and strong opposition to the influx of the Soviet and East European Jews to the occupied Palestine. "This move will create further obstacles which would hinder materialization of peace and tranquility in the region and in the world," stressed first Vice President Hassan Habibi in a meeting with the Hungarian Ambassador Erno Horvath here Monday. He expressed hope that formation of the new Hungarian Government would pave the way for the expansion of relations between the two countries.

Habibi stressed that backing of international circles and friendly countries for the full implementation of the Resolution 598, would help generate more support from the U.N. Security Council and a more active attitude by the U.N. Secretary General.

Meanwhile, the Hungarian envoy expressed hope that the new Hungarian Government would establish regular diplomatic contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran as an "influential country." Reiterating his country's decisive support for the Resolution 598, Horvath announced

Hungary's readiness to play an effective role in Iran's five-year development plan and in reconstruction projects. He said that his country was also concerned with the influx of Jews to the occupied lands, adding that this measure would further aggravate the situation in Palestine.

Editorial Urges Muslims To 'Isolate' Zionists

NC3004132590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Qods Day: Occasion To Support Justice and Oppose Zionist Aggression"]

[Text] Tomorrow, the last Friday [20 April] of the holy month of Ramadan marks the international Qods [Jerusalem] Day. Since 1979, and upon a proposal by the founder of the Islamic Republic the late Imam Khomeyni, Iran and a large number of Muslim nations of many countries have observed this day with revolutionary fervor in mammoth anti-Zionist demonstrations.

The large scale attendance of Muslim people in the related ceremonies throughout the world signifies the great importance Muslims attach to the liberation of the holy Qods land from the clutch of international Zionism.

But it is very regrettable that in spite of the great enthusiasm shown by Muslim masses, many governments in Islamic states have not welcomed the day. They have actually chosen to suppress the related demonstrations in indirect and, at times, direct ways.

Such governments unashamedly offer "the necessity of containing the Islamic Republic's cultural hegemony" as reason for their anti-Qods policies.

By such lame excuses these governments are virtually trying to eclipse the threat posed at Islamic nations by the usurping Tel Aviv regime by cashing in on an imaginary threat by Iran.

This line of thinking by leaders of these countries has, in the past decade, cost Islam, Muslims and the Palestinians in particular, gravely. They have indeed prevented the full expression of anti-Zionism and pro-Palestine slogans by the one-billion strong Islamic community in its entirety.

Anti-Islamic moves such as the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital have their roots in such very narrowminded policies of these so-called Muslim governments. The influx of East European Jews to the occupied lands too should be viewed in the same light. This Jewish rush to Qods lands will certainly add up to the complexity of the Palestinian issue facing it with so many other problems.

The slightest sincerity on the part of these anti-Qods Muslim rulers in their claims of adherence to Islam should convince them to do away with such anti-Islam policies.

Muslim masses meanwhile should break into the atmosphere of fear and suppression created by these rulers and send their voices everywhere booming in support of Palestine. This should particularly be done on Qods Day to make the Zionists aware of Muslim solidarity. The heroic Palestinians have already achieved this right there and then in the occupied lands and under the most inhuman acts of violence and torture by the Zionist regime.

The cries of Muslim Ummah in support of their brothers in Palestine should reverberate in the whole world on the Day of Qods. This liberating and anti-aggression cry is enough to shake Israel in its bullying boots and isolate those who, in implicit and explicit ways, have perpetuated the usurpation of the heartland of Islam by the scum of humanity, the Zionists.

Oil Minister Comments on Global Price Decline

LD3004152590 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, 30 April 30 (IRNA)—The plunging oil cartel is the result of over-production of certain countries including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, the minister of oil was quoted as saying. In an interview with the afternoon daily RESALAT published today Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh said falling demands in spring after a "warm winter" in Europe were other reasons for the oil price decline.

He said that to reach a decision against the oil market glut would be the most important subject of next meeting of the 13-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). "We will try in OPEC's market monitoring committee to decide how much of the production ceiling should be cut."

The oil minister considered the price fall as "temporary", and said the reduction will have no impact on Iran's foreign exchange earnings.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Labor Day Gathering

LD0105113790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] On the occasion of 1 May, International Labor Day, today thousands of workers from the country's industrial and production units gathered around the blessed tomb of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They renewed their pledge of adherence to the sacred objectives of Imam Khomeyni—may God accept him to paradise—while stressing the continuation of the imam's path. According to Central News Unit's report, the gathering was also attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the secretary general and staff of the House of Workers [Khaney-e Kargar], representatives from Turkey's Muslim workers unions, workers' Islamic councils, and associations, factories' basij organizations, as well as a large number of toiling workers of Tehran's factories and workshops. In

that meeting, the workers carried placards commemorating international labor day. Also, they once again renewed their oath of allegiance with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—leader of the Islamic revolution.

In that ceremony Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni pointed to the loss of the blessed presence of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni on labor day. He said: You workers are the pillar of the Islamic system, and during the course of struggles you never deserted the imam, who was always on your side. He then pointed to the labor law, which is being reviewed in the Expediency Discernment Council, and urged the officials to make endeavors aimed at resolving workers' problems.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni then pointed to the conspiracies of global arrogance against the Islamic revolution, and told the workers: The revolutionary people of the world consider you as their models, and at present the gigantic wheels of the country's economy are in your hands, and you have a great role in the country's development.

According to the same report, before the speech of Hojjat ol- Eslam val-Moslemiln Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the secretary general of the House of Workers stressed the partnership of workers in ownership of the country's industrial and production units. He also emphasized the importance of law on social welfare.

According to the same report, at the end of the above ceremony a 14-point resolution was read out, which was confirmed by workers. A segment of the resolution stresses obedience to the esteemed positon of the leadership and continuation of Imam Khomeyni's path as a divine obligation. If further asks the Expediency Discernment Council to speed up its ratification of the labor law, and thereby guarantee the workers' minimum wage. Furthermore, the resolution stresses confrontation against economic terrorists, as well as limiting the power of middlemen and hoarders. They further sought the provision of shares for government-owned units to workers at fair prices. In conclusion the Iranian workers expressed their support for the rightful struggles of the Palestinian nation, as well as for the right-seeking movements and struggles of workers the world over.

Commentary Lauds Release of U.S. Muslim Activist

NC2804113090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Apr 90 p 5

[Unattributed commentary: "A Positive Step Taken by Bush Administration"]

[Text] The release of Dhoruba al-Mujahid, an American Muslim activist, from American jails last month should be considered as a positive step taken by Washington towards finding a solution to the hostage crisis. It could also be looked at as a sign that depicts that the U.S. administration is serious on the subject. And it would not be wrong if one concludes that Washington, its recently made assertions about Iran losing its importance in the region because of the end of cold war notwithstanding, is interested in establishing contacts with Tehran.

The first time this interest was displayed by Bush Administration was on March 16 when the story about U.S. President George Bush's attempts to speak to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was disclosed by the White House spokesman.

Political analysts believe that it was actually a hint from the White House to the Islamic Republic that there are ways for breaking the silence.

The current measure towards this end, releasing al-Mujahid from prison, was taken by Bush administration after an editorial in this newspaper, titled "Speaking of Hostages", was printed on March 3. Discussing the issue of hostages in Lebanon it was pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran in its role of protecting Muslims and the oppressed wherever they are would be justified in demanding that Dhoruba al-Mujahid, Geronimo Pratt and Khalifah Hamas 'Abd-al-Khalis, put behind bars in the United States years ago after being framed by FBI, should also be set free.

It is certainly good news that al-Mujahid, one of the three innocent persons, is now a free man. Al-Mujahid, a Muslim and Black activist was arrested about two decades ago on charges of shooting of two New York policemen. Though the prosecution could not produce sufficient evidence in the court of law where he was tried, al-Mujahid was convicted and imprisoned. Throughout his trial he repeatedly denied having committed the act or in anyway participating in it.

Khalifah Hamas 'Abd-al-Khalis suffered a similar fate. He is the leader of the Hanafi Muslim group in the U.S. who strongly protested against the American judiciary system for unjustly handling the case regarding the slaughter of eight members of Hamas' family. Consequently armed protests on the issue in Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1977 resulted in one accidental shooting death and serious injury to another. Following that incident 12 men were sentenced to serve time—totaling to over 1,000 years in jail.

Nevertheless, if al-Mujahid is released because of the U.S. administration's belief that the act would serve as an appropriate measure which could positively influence the solution of the hostage issue, it does deserve appreciation. One is inclined to hope that all concerned or involved in the matter would adopt a similar outlook and act as wisely as the Bush administration. Common sense dictates that it would be to the advantage of all the concerned parties if the so-called hostage crisis is put to an end without further delay. Let us hope that the kith and kin of the hostages who have recently built up hopes of seeing their dear ones amongst them become as happy as the wife and two sons of al-Mujahid who joined them in the holy month of Ramadan—the most befitting month for good deeds.

Commentary Views Al-Asad's Moscow Trip

NC3004112190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0457 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] The recent visit by the Syrian president to the Soviet Union is considered to be significant since Moscow has made many changes in its Middle East policies. Relations between Moscow and Damascus during the past 20 years, and especially after the political changes in Egypt, have undergone noteworthy changes and developments, and Syria is considered to be almost the most faithful Middle East ally of the Soviet Union.

The friendship and cooperation pact which the two countries signed in 1980 opened up new prospects for Moscow-Damascus relations, especially in the field of weaponry; Syria has received strategic and modern Soviet arms.

Syria, part of which—the Golan Heights—has been under Zionist occupation for more than 20 years, has always believed that in order to confront Israel, the Arabs, and namely Syria, should achieve strategic parity. This was suspended after the Egyptian regime signed a peace pact with Israel, and Syria—as the frontline struggler against Israel—has always tried to strengthen itself militarily. The $3-billion U.S. assistance to the Zionist regime has created the biggest threat, not only for the countries neighboring Palestine, but also for the security of the vast Middle East area as a whole.

Now, in view of the policies pursued by Mikhail Gorbachev during recent years, and the two superpowers' concordance on solving regional conflicts, the question is: Does Israel continue to play its past role in the U.S. military-political strategy, and can the same doubt not be voiced about Moscow-Damascus relations?

Many Western analysts believe that the Soviet Union's new policies have had and will have a profound effect on the two countries' relations. THE WASHINGTON POST carried an interview last year with Aleksandr Zotov, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, who stated that three elements should be taken into consideration in his country's policy toward Syria: the limit of Soviet resources; how well Damascus can pay back its requests; and the need for Syria to gain access to logical defense resources. At that time, this interview was interpreted as an indication that Moscow was distancing itself from Damascus' military parity plan, especially when, three years before that, Mikhail Gorbachev had pointed out in a meeting with Hafiz al-Asad at the Kremlin that the Middle East crisis can only be solved through political means. Also, Western sources reported that the number of Soviet experts in Syria was dropping. It was alleged that two-thirds of the almost 2,500 experts had returned to Moscow.

However, the Soviet ambassador immediately denied that he had said such things in the interview with THE WASHINGTON POST, and in a meeting with the Syrian propaganda minister he expressed his dissatisfaction over the efforts of some news sources to cast doubt on the two countries' relations. He added that the objective behind the allegations about changes in Moscow-Damascus relations by some of the mass media, and especially the Israeli mass media, was to inflict more pressure on Syria.

Meanwhile, reports were published that showed that the number of Soviet experts had not been reduced at all, and that the changes in the number of experts and their comings and goings depended on Syria's need for the types of weapons sent to Damascus from Moscow.

Mohtashemi on Soviet Jewish Emigration

NC3004165690 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Apr 90 p 20

[Political commentary: "The Emigration of Soviet Jews—A Danger Knell" by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi]

[Text] Despite the tumultuous uproar and outcry by various Western and Islamic circles about the emigration of Soviet and East European Jews to the occupied Palestinian lands, a tidal wave of Jews continues to descend on Palestine by land, sea, and air, while the various countries and the so-called organizations for the defense of human rights and nations watch this massive tragedy being enacted against the Islamic ummah and Palestine. The heads of the Islamic and Arab countries are either parties to this conspiracy or are wait indifferently for the inevitable.

This dangerous trend is happening 30 months after the birth of the intifadah and the uprising of the Muslim Palestinian nation, which has suffered nearly 1100 martyrs, 58,000 wounded and 6,500 disabled and continues to grow stronger, more extensive, and more credible than ever. If this infant can stand on its own feet and walk with its own Islamic strength and capability with guidance from within the occupied lands, if it preserves its revitalizing links with the mosques and centers of pure Islam and recognizes the differences between American Islam and the Islam of Muhammad (peace be upon him and his scion), and does not permit the protagonists of American Islam to act, the hands of the professional touts and government politicians who are serving the enemy will be severed from the destiny of the oppressed nation and the usurped region of Palestine.

These brokers have bartered away the name of Palestine and its oppressed nation for more than 40 years in the guise of ruling Arab delegations, various rightist and leftist Palestinian organizations, or have sat at the table of compromise and negotiations.

The evolution of the present situation in Palestine has robbed the powers of world arrogance of its peaceful

sleep, robbed those who intend to declare the Palestine file closed, by shattering the equilibrium of the Palestinian population to the benefit of the Jews and exerting political, economic, and social pressure; by destabilizing livelihood and security conditions of the Palestinians; and by aggravating their homelessness.

In order to end this conspiracy and to fire the final bullet, the United States and the Soviet Union have coordinated their policies simultaneously as they did in the beginning, and the repulsive anti- Islamic faces of the inmates of the Kremlin and the White House are clearly visible.

In the entire course of the history of the inception of the illegitimate dynasty of Zionism and of Israel in Palestine, the trend of the emigration of Soviet Jews is the most dangerous issue for Islam and the Arabs as well as the Muslims.

The extensive scale of the emigration and rehabilitation of Soviet Jews in occupied Palestinian lands has continued over the past year with a special budget allocation by the United States. Under a program covering a period of five years, 3 million Jews will enter Palestine. With special military training and modern American armaments, this newly-acquired force will be transformed into a skilled military power used to suppress the Arab and Islamic countries and will contribute to the necessary geographical expansion of the Jewish areas.

The Jewish emigration is overt aggression by the oppressor powers guided by the United States against the world of Islam—the flames of which will engulf all the Arab and Islamic countries and will singe their very fabric.

Of course, the real danger to Israel at present is from the Islamic revolution and Iran. This is because none of the regional countries pose a serious threat to world arrogance spearheaded by the United States. It is only the Islamic revolution with its energy, strong potential to counteract world arrogance, and its fruitfulness which is a serious threat to the West and the United States. This energy and potential has permeated the other regional Muslim nations.

In view of this state of affairs and the darkness that the West and the United States have stretched over the horizon of the Islamic countries, the question arises: Do the echelons and heads of the Islamic countries sense this danger or are they wallowing in completely comatose indifference, hoping that those who shape destiny will not forget their services?

What catches the eye in this venomous and dark atmosphere is the danger knell sounded by the Soviet refugees' footsteps in the region, the real motives for which are still hidden. If the Palestinian issue is of importance to the Arab and Islamic countries, if the issue of the Bayt ol-Maqdis and Holy Jerusalem, the first Qiblah of the Muslims, has not been relegated to the stagnant ledger of the heads of the Islamic countries, and if the issue of the Soviet Jews' emigration into the heartland of the Arab and Muslim world is considered overt aggression and is a dagger plunged into the hearts of the Muslims, what practical steps have the heads of the Islamic and Muslim countries taken except to express regret, convene superficial meetings, and blame one another?

Has even one of those countries that directly or indirectly had a hand in this overt aggression been subjected to any political, economic, or oil embargoes? Has even one international Islamic session been convened to assess and make decisions on these vital issues?

Since the first day of its victory, the Islamic Revolution has pioneered the safeguarding of Islamic values and has implemented effective measures with initiative and creativity (despite the raging of the flames of war ignited by Saddam). For example, when Israel attacked Lebanon in 1982, in what was an unimaginable move for the United States and Israel, the Corps and the Mobilization Forces [of Iran] were dispatched to Lebanon to combat the Israeli and American troops, which resulted in the victory of the Lebanese Muslims and the defeat of Israel, the United States, and the multinational forces.

Even today, Iran can take the following political measures with regard to the Soviet Jews' emigration:

1. By convening an Islamic Palestinian session in Tehran, and inviting of Muslim and Palestinian personalities and members of Palestinian Islamic movements and organizations to discuss the issue of the emigration of millions of Soviet Jews, it can project it as an international issue.

2. As a member of the Nonaligned Movement, Iran can call for an extraordinary session, and can discuss the danger of the materialization of U.S. policies in the region. The issue of the Soviet Jews' emigration and the destiny of Palestine should be debated and decisions should be made accordingly.

3. As a member of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], Iran can request the convening of an extraordinary session to highlight the dangers of the materialization of U.S. policies as an international measure against the United States and Israel.

4. By dispatching high-level political delegations to Islamic countries with messages and thus sounding the danger knell on the emigration by the Jews, the Iranian Government can rouse Muslim public opinion.

5. The Iranian Government can formally request OPEC to halt at least 20 percent of its sales to those countries which are directly or indirectly involved in the Jewish emigration and have provided facilities for this purpose.

From the point of view of defense and security and to combat the danger of Israel and Zionism as the spearhead of U.S. oppression in the region, there is no recourse except the formation and use of Hezbollah forces and Islamic and Palestinian resistance cells against the centers of the Zionists' power and those centers from which the power of Israel stems.

The Islamic Revolution and ummah is poised at the crossroads of its history and the choice is in its hands.

Report on 11 April Majles Open Session

PM0105120290 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Apr 90 pp 5, 2

[Report from RESALAT's legal and parliamentary correspondent on 11 April Majles session]

[Text] The Majles held an open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, which continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat. Following recitations from the holy Koran, deputies from Tafresh, Saveh, Varamin and Mashhad gave pre-agenda speeches. The notices from the deputies to the country's executive officials were read out, after which the Majles went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was a first reading of a bill dealing with the charter for the Food and Food Industry Research Institute, which was passed by the deputies.

There was also the question posed by the people's deputy from Hamedan to the minister of roads and transportation. Because the answer given by the minister was not convincing, the question was sent to the Majles commission that deals with questions.

Here is the text of the deputies' pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Heydari, the people's deputy from Tafresh and Ashtiyan. He focused his speech on the education officer of the Central Province. He defended the education officer in the face of comments made by another deputy during a previous pre-agenda speech at the Majles.

He started by saying: I wish to apologize for the fact that I have to make these remarks during this holy month, in this holy place, to you, the respected deputies and to you, the martyr-rearing people of Iran, especially those in the Central Province, with regard to statements made by one of the deputies in a pre-agenda speech during yesterday's session. This deputy made a statement complaining about the new education officer for the Central Province. There was one part of the comments that dealt with the man's father and another part that was about the man himself. With regard to the education officer's father, as far as I am aware, he was and is one of Tafresh's religious people, engaged in minor trade. At about 11 o'clock last night I was talking to the respected Friday Imam of Tafresh, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr. Rahimi Najaf-Abadi. Everyone who is familiar with him, knows that he is brimming with piety and religious wisdom. I asked him what he knew about the new education officer. I asked because I knew that he was a member of the Friday prayers team at Tafresh. I have written down what the Friday Imam of Tafresh had to say and this is it: His father is one of the (trusted?) people in the town and one can perform the Friday prayers standing behind him. He represents us in many affairs. I ask him if I could quote him today and he said: Anywhere you like. I will write all this down if need be.

With regard to the education officer himself, he graduated in June 1979, at the start of the revolution. He then accepted various responsibilities in the Tafresh education office. The interesting thing that the speaker mentioned yesterday was that this education officer was one of the opponents of the huge cultural revolution in the university. The respected deputies are aware that the cultural revolution occurred in April 1980. The education officer graduated in June 1979, so he was not in a university. One of the responsibilities that he was given was to head the boarding school at Tafresh, which was a sensitive post. In September 1980, keeping his previous position intact, he became the officer in charge of the curriculum at the Tafresh education office.

At that time I myself was at the selection office of the Ministry of Education serving our dear brother Mr. Mozafari-Nejad. I believe that he has served the revolution a great deal and I pray that he will be safe from the dangers facing the revolution. In the heat of the issue of the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and the leftists, he was approved by the selection office.

He added: In September 1988, during the time our brother Mr. Akrami was minister, he became head of the teachers' training center in Yasuj and at the time of Mr Najafi he retained the same post. In this period there was talk of some deputy managerial positions for him in some provinces and Mr. Najafi finally chose him to head the education department of the Central Province.

Mr. Heydari continued: I ask God to be my witness, in this holy place where I have promised God never to sit without first being sanctified, I have never heard one word from him to suggest that he has leftist thoughts. There has never been a doubt created among us. He has had a lot of responsibility and was the head of the composition class. We are in touch with the children in that area. Tafresh is a small place, and if he were to have an effect on the children, it would have shown by now. We do not have a problem with the counterrevolution in that area. This is a secure town. It is a place of science, culture and education, and a point of pride for the Islamic Republic. For the first time in our history we are building a university town in that area.

At the end of his speech, while confirming the statement made by the respected Majles speaker on 1 April concerning economic terrorists, he said: Is this issue not causing political chaos in this country? Does this not endanger job security in this country? Do you not think that when we crush economic criminals, we also have to crush political criminals as well? Do economic criminals not gain ground as political criminals?

Mr. Movahedi Savoji was the second pre-agenda speaker. He talked about confronting economic terrorists and said: Under the present conditions of the Islamic Republic, under any conditions, during the war and

during the past 11 years, I believe that there had to be a confrontation against destructive elements. These include all destructive elements who have caused subversion in the country, corrupt people, those who have declared war against us, those who have fought against us with weapons, the Hypocrites and other war-like groups, foreign attackers and criminals and groups that fight against the holy regime of the Islamic Republic with political and propaganda weapons in various ways. Thank God the Islamic Republic staged an effective confrontation against those political groups which staged armed struggle at the time they raised their arms against this country. To a large extent most of their roots were destroyed. Now they have taken refuge in other countries and are forced to beg in those countries and are in dreadful shape serving the United States and Saddam. But now we are talking about the elements and the people who hoard and sell goods at high prices. They monopolize goods needed by the people and cause disruptions in the system of distribution within the country in the private sector, in the cooperatives and in the public sector. The discussion that we have on this issue is not about one or two specific people. We are saying that there has to be confrontation with the elements that cause disruption in the economic system and against economic vulnerability.

These people could be anyone, with any title, in any clothes and in any post in the country. This issue is really no less than that of drug smugglers or the Hypocrites, the leftist or the hostile groups and the damage they cause is no less either.

He then said: This subject has been discussed in the Majles in various ways before and there is now a plan before the Majles. Of course they did not bring it to me otherwise I would have signed it, but with the study that I have done in this regard, there are some corrections which are not even major ones, but which nevertheless have to be done. The plan in general will deal with things and people that cause disruptions. It will confront economic issues in government organizations, in government bodies, in the bazaar, in the export or import networks or anywhere else. With the help of God we hope that the appropriate committee will look carefully into the plan, which is urgently needed and then present it to the Majles. We then hope that the Majles will also give the plan priority and with the help of God any problems that it may have will be removed. The judicial power should also confront the issue and then there would be no excuse for not having adequate laws.

Mr. Mohavehi Savoji continues his speech by commenting on a statement made in yesterday's open session of the Majles by one of the deputies about the past actions of the Central Province's education officer. He said: We are in the holy month of Ramadan and we are sitting here in the Majles on behalf of the people. The dear imam once said: "In reality the Majles is the cream of the Hezbollah people and the wisdom of the masses." Now that we are here in the Majles on behalf of the people, relying on the epitome of Imam 'Ali's justice—may peace be unto him and his family—we must stay away from saying anything that is against religious or judicial law. I see nothing wrong in deputies, including myself, saying things if there are issues or criticisms with regard to officials, followed by proper decisions by the appropriate people. But to come behind the Majles microphone, to play with the dignity, fate and the entire life of a human being is neither right according to religious law, nor is it right in terms of humanity or morality. Really, how can our dear brother answer all these heavy accusations that he has levelled against an official of this nation? This person has served the education system since the start of the revolution when he graduated. He has even had important positions. During the time martyr Rafa'i was minister, during the days of martyr Bahonar, Mr. Parvaresh, Mr. Akrami and now during the time of Mr. Najafi, he has held various posts and today he is general manager of a department. These people from the universities' crusade, or from among student bodies or from intelligence circles, these people who are claiming to know something, where have they been all this time? If there really are no dirty tricks, if there is no hostility or danger of factionalism coming into this issue—where have these people been and why have they not come forth before to say these things? This servant of the Lord has passed through the gauntlet of the education department in the ministry and at provincial level several times. Then to bring this question up like this, in this way, to say that the man is a leftist—do you really have a reply to give to God and in the courtroom of your own conscience? Can you prove these accusations? I am asking the judicial power and judicial authorities to look into allegations that have been made against this person so that if he is innocent his good name will be cleared. If he is innocent then the deputy who brought the insults against him should be prosecuted. If he is guilty, then he should be confronted in accordance with the proper laws.

Mr. Mohammad Qomi was the third pre-agenda speaker who started by conveying his greetings on the birth anniversary of the second star in the religious galaxy, Imam Mojtaba—peace be unto him and his family. He quoted one of the prayers for this month which has a connection with the hajj and said: One of the prayers that is appropriate this month is [a Koranic verse] which means that we ask God to give us the blessing of being able to visit the house of God and to do the hajj. But what is this hajj and how should it be performed and how important is it for us to make it the subject of one of our prayers and one of our wishes during Ramadan? The late imam said: The hajj of yesterday was without feeling. A hajj without a mass movement and without rejection and heretics, without unity and a hajj in which there is no demand for the destrication of heretics is not a hajj. The hajj, according the the Koran, is one which everyone can benefit from. If thinkers and those are familiar with the pains of Islam do not get scared and if they swim its deep waters, if they do not get scared of its social regulations,

this vast sea will in turn give to them jewels of wisdom and freedom and they will forever benefit from its riches and its fairness.

The respected officials dealing with the hajj should know that the Imam is in facat discussing the culture of the hajj here when he says in another part: Whether or not we are in Mecca, our spirits is with Abraham in Mecca. If they close the gates of Medina to us, our love for the prophet will not be lost and we will still pray in the direction of Mecca and we will move toward Mecca and we will worship God. We are steadfast in our promise to God and we have established the basis of rejection of heretics with the blood of thousands of our martyrs. We did not wait for some of the undignified rulers of some Islamic or non-Islamic countries to support our movement.

With regard to the al-Sa'ud, the imam said: "In any case al-Sa'ud is not qualified to organize the affairs of the hajj and the holy sites. The ulema and the wise men have to find a solution." In another section the imam said: "All those people who did wrong things against us—even forgetting about Jerusalem or Saddam—even if we forget everything that was done against us, we will not be able to forget the issue of Hejaz."

He continued: What must be done is that this day must be remembered, the day that treason was committed against Islam. I hope that the officials that are involved in the hajj pay attention to the fact that all of us Muslims regard the hajj as a religious-political necessity and we all believe that it must be performed. But it must be a hajj in accordance with the rules Abraham set down, with dignity and with grandeur. The blood of the innocent martyrs of Mecca in reality is a powerful document proving the innocent of Islam. In reality this blood-red line is the dividing line between pure Islam and American Islam. The Imam said: If we had sent thousands of people to do propaganda for us throughout the world, they could not have done it as well as this line that has been drawn.

The speaker continued: Muslims all over the world in Iran, Lebanon, Palestine or Africa must continue the tradition of breaking pagan gods in their own homes, just as Abraham and the prophets were busy breaking false pagan gods. They must be able to follow this tradition of breaking gods by shouting death to America and death to Israel. They have to shout these slogans. Of course the al-Sa'ud government will not have the power and should not be able to prevent the people from carrying out their political-religious ceremonies.

Now it is possible that from Israel and from some other countries a few court-supported clerics will issue decrees to say that the hajj is religious and not political, that we must carry out a series of meaningless ceremonies and acts. They want a hajj where we would not pay attention to why Abraham built that monument or why the prophet stood there and shouted God is great. They want to stand against a hajj that is meaningful. We must pay attention to this fact and be aware. First of all the Iranian Government must be free—like in previous years—as to how many pilgrims it wants to send to the hajj. It must be able to send these people to the house of God. At the same time Muslims must not be bothered in any way. Not like last year when we saw that they themselves created a scene to send 16 of Islam's revolutionary children to be beheaded later. This is shameful for the al-Sa'ud government. The people's deputy from Varamin added: We must be completely free in our cry against heretics and to be able to do the hajj as Abraham would have done. There must be security for all pilgrims, not only for the ones from Iran, but also for other pilgrims from other parts of the world, so that they can perform the religious-political ceremonies of the hajj freely and in security. In any case what is important for us is the glory and the dignity of Muslims, to be able to utilize the gains and the things that the Imam taught us when he explained the philosophy of the hajj to us. This hajj must continue to have this glory for us. This holy month of Ramadan is the month that the people of Palestine and the revolutionary children of Islam have named as the month of struggle against the occupying Zionist aggressors. Unfortunately many of the reactionary regimes and many of the aggressive governments are trying to silence the cries of freedom—God is great, unity and rejection of the heretics—that are coming from the revolutionary Islamic children of Palestine.

With regard to Jerusalem Day and the imam's special attention to this day he said: The imam stressed that on the last Friday of the year we should have a day for Jerusalem as a day of solidarity with the innocent people of Palestine. We must pay attention that we must do something worthy for the dignity of the Muslims of Palestine. I ask all the Muslims and all the free peoples of the world to renew their solidarity with the people of Palestine once again on the last Friday of Ramadan like before and shout death to Israel and death to America louder than before, to say to the Palestinian people that we are with you.

With regard to the U.S. senate recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, Mr. Qomi said: The U.S. Senate has committed another crime. They have dreamed many dreams for Jerusalem and they have designated it as the capital of Israel. I announce now: Oh, you criminal United States! Jerusalem is the first place Muslims prayed to and we place great value on it. We will defend the dignity of Jerusalem and the Muslim people of Palestine with our claws and with our teeth. We will never allow you strangers—whose entry is barred from Mecca—to show a presence there, to make decisions for Mecca, Jerusalem or Medina. The al-Sa'ud rulers have made even the most hardened criminals look like angels, and despite the fact that they regard themselves as guardians of the two holy mosques, instead of praying in the direction of the house of Abraham, to welcome his and the prophet's call to unity, unfortunately they have chosen to pray in the direction of the White House in Washington.

Concerning the education officer of the Central Province he said: Mr. Heydari, you should pay attention to the fact that it is correct that the education officer is related to you—he is the son of your uncle. Mr. Movahedi also made some comments. But be fair and do not mention issues in this way. You see there are confidential letters which have been written and they are available. Was it possible during the time of the former regime to put a leftist person as manager of an education department?

Mr. Bani-Hashemi was the fourth and last pre-agenda speaker. He started by conveying his greetings on the occasion of the glorious birth anniversary of Imam Mojtaba—peace be upon him and his family—and the fact that this year the anniversary coincided with Nowruz as well as the holy month of Ramadan. He then talked about the Five-Year Plan and said: It is my duty as a representative of the people to say some things about the important factor of management under these ripe conditions which are right for movement and reconstruction activity, within the framework of the strong and clear programs of the Five-Year Plan, when the wheels for the running of the affairs of the country are in motion. I also wish to mention a few important things to the officials. Although the subject which I want to discus is relevant for some other areas of the country, I have no choice but to think of local needs and discuss things for my constituency of holy Mashhad. Before entering into the main topic, I wish to convey heartfelt thanks on behalf of myself and the people of Mashhad and the pilgims of the holy mosque of the eighth imam, Reza—peace be unto him and his family—toward the respected leader for visiting Mashhad at the start of the new year. This special attention of the leader to the holy sites strengthens the spiritual bond between the people and the regime.

Concerning the problems facing his constituency, the speaker said: How do we wish to solve the welfare problems faced by holy Mashhad keeping in mind the special circumstances that it has in terms of culture, economics as well as politics? If there are no serious and effective measures taken to solve these bottomless issues in the near future, it will result in the disintegration of the town's cultural, religious, economic and social fabric. Should we allow issues to pile up to such an extent so that they reach an explosive level? The lack of education space is at an explosive level. The water situation is reaching crisis level. The renovation and building and urban renewal situation is in total chaos. Every street corner and block plays its own tune. Collection of sewage and sewage management in the town is still not organized and is at a basic level. There is no organization for traffic and sometimes it reaches a complete standstill. Short-term solutions do not work. People have real problems coming to Mashhad using the railway system. The building of the road between Quchan and Mashhad—although work started a long time ago—still has a long way to go. The fact that the road keeps getting narrow and then wide causes accidents. The road between Neyshabur and Mashhad causes fatalities and other problems during the cold months along 110 km of its path. During the recent holiday period it took five and a half hours to travel through this stretch of road and some got stuck there. Whereas it is possible to build a suitable road 60 km long, for which there has been study and planning for quite some time. Little attention is paid to the beauty of Mashhad, to make it greener for the pilgrims and the tourists. As far as Urban planning is concerned, it has no shape or form. The problem of hotel space and guesthouses is quite obvious in Mashhad. It is normal for travelers to face shortages of hotel space, especially now at holiday time.

The speaker continued: The University of Mashhad and the school of medicine have serious shortages of space as well as equipment. The plan to expand the area around the holy mosque must progress as quickly as possible. It is absolutely essential that this area match the general look of the town, which needs further coordination. With regard to the areas around Mashhad, the situation is not better since much of these are deprived. The region is ripe for expansion in various fields including water, natural resources and cattle-raising, in order to solve its problems. The Ministry of Roads has been involved now for more than 12 years, taking twice what its original budget was supposed to be and the road is still not finished. Keeping in mind the issues mentioned above, can one ignore this important and strategic area? This does not even include the social and employment problems for which there must be a fundamental effort. At the moment we are not in a position to evaluate or plan for this.

Mr. Bani-Hashemi continued to discuss the problems of his constituency by saying: My discussion on management stresses this point exactly. One has to recognize the problems, give them an order of priority, then plan and execute the programs along with the necessary supervision and followup action. All these points make up for strong management. The official in charge of coordinating all this work, who is the governor general of the province—what had he done so far to follow up on these important tasks in his province? Unfortunately I sadly have to say that there are shortcomings in followup work and a lack of expert help for some of the projects. This has caused some of the projects to take a long time to be completed and also the quality of the work is unsuitable. The net result is increasing costs which in turn bring social problems. For example the problem of the water project in Mashhad has caused some other projects to be left unfinished, which wastes the people's money. This includes the traffic island in the middle of Khajeh-Rabi' Boulevard which was to have a lawn laid with trees and flowers, but because of a lack of water, instead of grass, there are now cobble-stones. What manager would allow this situation in the middle of the Mashhad plain which is one of our areas with the most water—where we are forced to live as if we were in the middle of the Hejaz desert, to put stones instead of grass and trees and flowers?

The people's deputy from Mashhad added: Will this unacceptable situation be our role model now, or are we to have

principles and goals in our programs? These were some of the executive problems with regard to welfare projects which were mentioned in order to clarify the situation in the people's minds. But we must know that problems have solutions if they are acted on properly. One can solve problems and remove them. One can utilize past experience and use these for future planning. The plans and projects mentioned below can solve the problems just discussed. Most of these are unfinished. The new plans can be finished within the projected time limit if there is the necessary groundwork to get the people's participation and national help. The important thing is to have the management of the province follow up these plans in the shortest possible time and this is something that can be done. For example there is at present a shortage of 1,000 schools in Mashhad. Many classes, especially in the Savadkan area and in region number one are working in two or three shifts a day and many of the school buildings that have been rented are unsuitable.

The speaker then counted the problems with regard to building schools: The problems are: providing land, providing credit, providing building material, management, followup and supervision. There is suitable land available but this has to be obtained through the province's management with coordination among the education department, the urban land office, the office in charge of the holy mosque, the religious endowments' office and the municipality. The land must be provided free of charge to the education department in accordance with one of the footnotes in the Five-Year Plan and first priority must be given to providing building material for schools in Mashhad. The policies and their execution must be followed by the management of the province. With regard to credit, in addition to credit, there are also plenty of funds available from the people but there must be a system to attract these funds and to guide them in the proper direction. There must be followup, management and coordination which can in a matter of two years make up for this lack of education space.

The speaker then talked about the deprived area of Kalat and said: Another example is the deprived border region of Kalat. Despite the fact that this area is in the mountains, it has much pasture land and adequate rivers. So far it has not had the opportunity to use the facilities and has had the honor of being designated as a deprived area. What is the main area of concern there? Last year, in order to answer this request, we invited the forestry commission, the agriculture office and the reconstruction crusade and asked them to analyze the cost for the expansion of the water system, natural resources and cattle-raising in the area and to put forth their plan for expansion in these fields. What has so far been achieved is a document which I must give as a present to the history of the Iranian people and to the deprived people of Kalat. This area with the specifics mentioned, has so much to offer, that according to the exact and good study done by the reconstruction crusade, there is the potential to build 28 dams there. To follow up on the execution of such projects of course needs the support of the special bureau dealing with deprived areas at the president's office as well as the plan and budget organization. This must be pursued by the province management. There are other plans and projects which like this have special qualities. So, I would like to ask the respected governor general of Khorasan Province, the appropriate executive offices and the appropriate ministries to speed up the execution of the list of plans and proposals provided by giving the cost of each stage of the development in the plans. There should also be a progress report of all the work, the obstacles and the problems so that if God is willing we shall be able to undertake welfare work with one another's help for our Islamic homeland, especially mashhad and the deprived region of Kalat.

He then read out the list of plans and said: The list has 12 plans dealing with various projects in Mashhad as follows: schools, drinking water for Mashhad and its suburbs, town sewage, a general plan for the town, a plan for the area around the holy mosque, a traffic and metro system, a Mashhad railway to Tehran, a railway between Mashhad and Quchan, a railway between Mashhad and Neyshabur, beautifying the town, the expansion and completion of Ferdowsi University and building hotels and mosques. There are four plans to do with Kalat: expansion and utilization of the water system, improving natural resources, cattle-raising and the road between Mashhad and Kalat. The list comes with details on the executive offices, the organizations that can help and the time for completion the first, second and third stages of the projects.

The ministers must confront and follow up as well as inform the managers under their jurisdiction. Their evaluation of a manager must be based on the completion of their given jobs, especially in the Ministry of Interior where political and executive affairs are mixed together. Sometimes, someone is recognized, not because they know their work or because they deserve it, but in order to create balances. Then all that is left behind is the people's work.

The speaker then spoke about Jerusalem Day and said: This day reminds us of the cry of our great Imam Khomeyni who broke false gods. The great people of Iran and the Muslims of the world have a never-ending fight with Zionism. They took part in the marches on the last Friday of Ramadan showing their unity and their anger toward the world-engulfing enemy, the United States, and Israel. They shall continue shouting Death to America and Death to Israel as a sign of their holy anger until the liberation of dear Jerusalem and the destruction of the cruel ones.

More than 150 of the Majles deputies have written a letter asking Muslims and the rightful ulema throughout the world to force the al-Sa'ud rulers to remove the obstacles in the path of Muslim Iranians who wish to go to the Hajj. Here is the text of the letter:

The time of hajj is getting closer. Able Muslims are eager and are getting ready to travel to the holy mosques. But

the revolutionary Muslims of Iran who are thirsty and hungry to do the hajj, are denied this great honor which is their right. This is because the Saudi rulers who shed the holy blood of their visitors in the holy place are preventing people from doing the hajj. [Koranic verse omitted] They give themselves the right to make the house of God and this necessary ceremony tools for their own wicked interests. Keeping in mind that the hajj is the right of all Muslims and is one of the pillars of religion, no one has the right to prevent God's people from going there. We, the deputies of the Islamic Majles ask all dedicated and rightful Muslim ulema throughout the world to force the al-Sa'ud rulers to remove the obstacles which are currently in the way of Muslim Iranians going to the hajj. It is clear that this goal will be reached when the following issues are undertaken by the rulers of Hejaz:

1. The Saudi rulers have to admit to their treason in killing the innocent Iranian pilgrims and they must appologize. 2. They have to pay blood money for the innocent blood of the martyrs that was shed. 3. They have to return the items that were looted from the campsites used by Iranian pilgrims. 4. The figure for Iranian pilgrims should be kept at a minimum of 150,000 which is what it was the last time Iranians went on the hajj in 1987. 5. Iranian and other pilgrims should be allowed to perform during the hajj, demonstrations rejecting heretics in accordance with the wishes of the great leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni—may his passage to heaven by expedited.

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was a report from the first meeting of the health commission with regard to the bill for the charter of the Food and Food Industry Research Institute. Following speeches in favor and against the bill, it was put to the vote and passed.

The second item on the agenda was a report from the first meeting of the plan and budget commission with regard to the bill for the establishment of a center for the utilization of satellites. Further discussion on this was postponed until a later session.

The last item on the agenda was the question posed by Mr. Kamel Kheyr-Khah, the people's deputy from Lahijan to Mr. Sa'idi Kia minister of roads and transportation.

Mr. Kheyr-Khah posed his question in this way: It has been more than five or six months since the minister of roads and transportation promised in the Road and Transport Commission, in the presence of some deputies from Gilan Province as well as some of his own deputies and the general manager of the Islamic Republic Airlines, that there would be at least one flight added to the Tehran-Rasht route. Why has he so far not acted on his promise? In general, why is it that with regard to flights and the transfer of passengers with this mode of transport, this gentleman is acting with unpleasant prejudice? For example Bakhtaran is not that different from Gilan in terms of travel time by road. They have flights throughout the week while there are only three flights from Rasht to Tehran. Why is it that the one flight a week from Rasht to Mashhad has been cancelled?

Mr. Kheyr-khan then elaborated on his question and thanked Mr. Sa'idi Kia for the requests that had so far been approved.

He continues his statement by saying: Just as the provinces of Esfahan and Bakhtaran need a lot of flights because there are a lot of factories and refineries there, Gilan Province also has considerable industry. We now have about 100 tea factories in Gilan Province. We have an industrial village in the province and now they are starting to drill oil from the Caspian Sea. The gas pipeline from Iran to the Soviet Union started work this last Monday [9 April]. Naturally there will be much coming and going and because there are no flights, the delegation that left Tehran on Monday, left on a private plane. Why should Mr. Sa'idi Kia, as minister of the government of the Islamic Republic pay attention to a lot of pressure and take action and not pay attention to the rights of the people in an area where there is no pressure? He knows that the representative of the Faqih in the province has coordinated with the deputies and has mentioned this issue several times in the Friday prayers. He asked the respected ministers of roads and others to pay attention to Gilan Province, especially with regard to adding flights. Unfortunately, even though he has promised to increase the flights by a minimum, he has not done this.

Mr. Sa'idi Kia replied to the question posed by the people's deputy from Lahijan:

The expectation that I have from the respected deputies, as a servant of the people, with regard to the question, is that they should talk more about the programs of a given ministry. Or if big mistakes have been made, or are being made, they should ask questions. My expectation from Mr. Kheyr-Khan was that he should ask questions in relation to the aircraft industry. In this question there have been two accusations leveled against me: 1. That I have not shown respect to the people of Gilan. 2. That I have not shown respect to Imam Reza—peace be unto him and his family.

He added: The brothers know that from 1981 until 1989, the Islamic Republic of Iran's aviation lost something like five or six aircraft. Two were hijacked to Iraq, one Airbus was destroyed by the criminal Americans and one was destroyed in the bombing of Shiraz. The growth in population from that year until now—if in 1981 we had 42 or 43 million people, we now have 54 to 55 million people. This means that the number of planes in our fleet has been decreased, while our population has gone up by 10 million.

All these factors show us that we have a problem with regard to moving people about with planes. If the fleet is not repaired and if there are no planes added to the fleet, this situation will get worse. Of course steps have been taken in this direction and if God is willing, we shall give

a report to the Majles at the proper time. The Islamic Republic's aviation authorities organize their flights in accordance with scientific studies. It is not as if it is done by whim or if officials organize these things through assumptions. The flights are organized in accordance with the situation in the market and the situation of the passengers. I will now give answer to the question asked about Rasht's flights and I will give details on what the situation is like. The only problem is not planes and passengers, the airport is also a decisive element. In Rasht our airport limits our action in the sense that it cannot accept 737, 727, 707 or the Airbus planes. This means that in geenral the number of planes that can fly from there are limited. With regard to the fact that Bakhtaran has more flight than Rasht, this is because the ground distance between Rasht and Tehran is 320 KM, 140 of which is a highway. Tehran to Bakhtaran is 499 km and 50 or 60 percent of the route is different from the other route. This is a decisive factor as to why there should be more flights for the other area.

The minister of roads also said that the number of seats that have been switched about from the passengers of this province to other areas of the country is 40 percent more than those of Bakhtaran Province.

Following the answer given by the minister of roads and transportation, Mr. Kheyr-Khah spoke again after which Mr. Sa'idi Kia once again answered the questions. Since the deputy from Lahijan was not convinced by the answers given by the minister, the question went to the Majles commission that deals with questions.

At the end of the open session of the Majles, a plan signed by 32 Majles deputies was handed in:

"There should be a legal plan to necessitate the sale of surplus homes and gardens by the government to the homeless people in the country."

The Majles will hold its next open session on Wednesday of next week [18 April].

Karrubi on Majles' Support for Labor Law

LD0105123990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 May 90

[Excerpts] In today's open session of the Majles, the Majles speaker [Mehdi Karrubi] paid tribute to the constructive role of our worker compatriots on the scenes of production and on the stage of defending the achievements of the Islamic revolution. Further he declared the Majles's readiness to ratify the labor law, and resolve workers' problems. Our correspondent reports about proceedings in today's open session of the Majles.

[Correspondent] In today's open session of the Majles, chaired by Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker made some congratulatory remarks on International Labor Day, 1 May, to all the toiling workers of the country, and wished them success in serving Islam and the revolution. [passage omitted]

Mr. Karrubi then pointed to His Holiness Imam Khomeyni's continuous praise for workers' role, and said: The Majles is ready to resolve the problems of workers. For that purpose the Majles did its best to ratify the labor law, which at present is receiving attention in the Expediency discernment Council, and the bill has progressed to satisfactory stages. [as heard] [passage omitted]

President Receives Workers Representatives

LD3004121590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Excerpts] At a meeting today with representatives of workers from all over the country, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the working classes as among the most faithful groups of people to Islam and the revolution. He said: We attach a great deal of importance to the workers and in the committee for Discerning expediency for the System everyone is trying to ensure that a labor law worthy of the Islamic system will be approved.

At this meeting, held on the occasion of International Labor Day, in which representatives from Islamic labor councils and Islamic committees of workers were also present, the president expressed his congratulations on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr and International Labor Day. He emphasized: The importance and the value of this day is in the fact that, at last, the mass media and world public opinion have come to pay attention to a reality in the lives of people, namely the rights of the workers and the labor force. [passage omitted]

The president added: Your vigilance during the first few years of the revolution, when the atheistic and hypocritical mini-groups with their deceptive slogans were trying to deceive the workers and to pollute the atmosphere, demonstrated that the entire working population is on the side of the officials and behind his eminence the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise. As a whole, you had the best approach towards those mini-groups and toward any kind of deviation.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also voiced his appreciation for the presence of the workers in various stages of the revolution during the past 11 years and their efforts for the sake of Islam, and added: For more than 100 years leftist forces have dominated a vast segment of the population in the name of workers, and during the past few decades they have formed many governments. Now one should see why, after decades of the absolute rule of the parties who claim to be the supporters of the workers, they have cancelled Labor Day. This is due to the fact that the first group which arose in opposition to their policies was the workers; because even if some of those groups meant well they had not chosen a correct path. The choosing of analyzes based on class distinction has such an outcome.

Continuing his remarks, the president referred to the imperialist nature of Western governments and said: The Westerners make use of the bodily strength and capability of workers for improving the lives of the capitalists

and the wasteful. As a result, capitalist governments are forced to make certain concessions to the workers; but the whole world condemn them.

The president added: Islam does not view everything from a materialist point of view. For us, the dignity of man and man's social rights enjoy priority. Material things are only tools, while human dignity is the principal goal. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We regard social justice as a totality, a part of which is the right of the workers. However, social awareness, expression of views in political matters, cultural matters and education are more valuable and more important.

The president added: From an Islamic viewpoint, we attach a great deal of importance to the workers and the labor force as a whole. If we take away the labor force from society nothing will be left of it.

Stressing the need for increasing the production and greater efforts during future plans of the country, the president said: If there is no production in society, the demands of the workers will not be satisfied. We should make maximum use of productive capabilities and by increasing production we should satisfy the demands of the workers and other social strata. In this way other problems such as land, housing, and other social needs will also be solved.

Referring to the government's attention towards productive, industrial and agricultural sectors and the continuation of the education of the children of the workers, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the importance of providing the shares of factories to the workers through the cooperation of the banks and added: I am very anxious that the workers possess a considerable part of the shares of the productive units and earn a percentage of the profits of their factories. Your share should not be negligible. Who is more deserving than you?

The president said that the study of the labor law in the Committee for Discerning Expediency for the System is progressing, and voiced his hope that with the assistance of the ulema and the officials of the country, as well as the minister of labor and social affairs, an Islamic labor law will be approved.

PRC Minister Discusses Medical Cooperation

LD0105151990 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—Visiting Chinese Minister of Public Health Chen Minzhang and his Iranian counterpart Dr. Iraj Fazel discussed Tehran-Beijing medical and hygenic cooperation here today. During the meeting Chen expressed his country's readiness for the exchange of experience with Iran.

Chen arrived here Monday night [30 April] for a four-day visit during which he would also inspect several medical and pharmaceutical centers.

Iraqi POW's Meet Family Members, Praise Iran

LD2904112690 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—In continuation of humanitarian measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a group of Iraqi POW's met with their relatives at Heshmatiyeh garrison here Sunday [29 April].

Several of the POW's family members praised Iran for organizing such reunions and thanked Iranian officials for paying attention to spiritual and psychological needs of the POW's.

The relatives termed Iraq's hamperings of the implementation of the Resolution 598 as the main reason delaying repatriation of POW's. They appealed to international organizations to press Iraq to implement the resolution.

Rushdie's Refusal to Apologize Angers Muslims

LD2704204190 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] London, Apr, 27, IRNA—In his first broadcast interview since going into hiding, Salman Rushdie has angered Muslims by refusing to apologise and by saying that he will not back down or be defeated over the anti-Islamic book THE SATANIC VERSES. He also rejected any responsibility for the plight of British hostages held in Lebanon.

In a telephone interview on Friday morning [27 April] with BBC Radio Four's 'Today' programme, he said arrogantly that "the fact is that it seems to me that I wrote a book quite legitimately that was published quite legitimately and it is not really for the person who is the object of an attack to solve the problem".

Although Radio Four claimed Rushdie had phoned them, and that the main purpose of the interview was to discuss a new campaign by a civil rights organisation called Charter 88, which was jointly founded by Salman Rushdie and other authors and politicians, Muslim observers in England believe the BBC somehow enticed the author to call them, in order to pose to him the question of the British hostages in Lebanon.

They believe the Charter 88 campaign was not the main aim of the interview, but that instead this state radio station wanted to open up fresh dialogue with Rushdie and the Muslim community, at the end of which the author would perhaps back down from his present stubborn stand.

The reason for this new 'round of talks', or as one observer said, this first act in a new play, is the pressure clearly being applied to Rushdie by the British Government, to apologise to the Muslims for his anti-Islamic slander, not because of any respect for Islamic values, but because of their concern for the British hostages in Lebanon.

The interviewer pointed out to the apostate author that the entire episode will not come to an end unless Rushdie says something "to please the Iranians". Then, placing the onus of the current Lebanon hostage crisis onto the blasphemous author, he told Rushdie that there is "not just yourself. There are British hostages who are being held and it may be that the Iranians could bring something to bear if you gave the right signals, which might change the climate a little".

Clearly demonstrating the amount of public opinion and pressure surrounding the hostage issue, and its link to the SATANIC VERSES affair, the author replied in the "first act" of this new play, that it is "extremely unfair" to make the responsibility for the fate of the hostages his responsibility. He claimed that his "ability to act in these matters, is very limited".

He beleived that certain Muslims, such as Dr. Kalim Siddiqui, the director of the Muslim Institute, should have been prosecuted for their support of the Islamic fatwa, by the late Imam Khomeini on 14 February 1989. The fatwa imposed the death sentence on the anti-Islamic author. "I find it hard to believe that there is insufficient evidence", the apostate author said. And he added that he believed the SATANIC VERSES affair is a "political matter".

Later on Friday, on the BBC's television programme 'Breakfast Time', Kalim Siddiqui, described as a "hard-liner", agreed that it is a "political matter", because he stated, "the British Government has taken a position which is totally hostile to Muslims, to Islam in this country and the British Government has got to change its attitude."

Siddiqui felt that "the basic offender is Rushdie himself" and insisted that he "has to withdraw this book", and that "there is no other solution". He confirmed that the death sentence "will indeed" be carried out if Rushdie refuses to withdraw the book, apologise and compensate for the offence caused. And he stressed that "as long as this book remains in circulation, Rushdie will remain out of circulation".

However, he believed that Iran has "very little to do with" the issue, and said that it is rather a "conflict in Britain between the Muslims here in Britain and Mr. Rushdie". Siddiqui warned the author that "if he has got to live here with 2 million of us, he has got to come off his 'high horse' and realise that he has offended us, he has to apologise and he has got to withdraw the book".

In the same programme, even the Egyptian dentist, Hisham el Essawy, who is considered by most Muslims in Britain, to be highly Westernised, did agree that Rushdie must apologise and that he cannot "wash his hands" of the whole affair. Not surprisingly, he repeated his claim that the fatwa of the late Imam Khomeini is "un-Islamic". He deliberately ignored the fact that 48 countries attending the Islamic Conference Organisation meeting in March 1989, confirmed the fatwa's authenticity under shari'a. There can be no doubt that the fatwa must continue to remain in place.

Indian 'Heavy-Handedness' in Kashmir Condemned

NC3004132290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Indian Government Tough Measures Only Aggravate Kashmiri Crisis"]

[Text] The Kashmiri crisis is taking on new dimensions each day. The Indian government's heavy handedness, Muslims' resistance and the escalating tension between India and Pakistan over the issue all add up to a very gloomy picture.

Muslims who are following the Kashmiri crisis trend with much anxiety however are nonplused by the New Delhi's tough measures and its persistence on heavy handedness vis-a-vis the Kashmiri people.

For a fact Prime Minister V.P. Singh owes a great deal to Muslims for his victory in the elections. Singh's choice of a Muslim, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed to the post of home minister was very much welcome. But his government's acts of outright violence against the Kashmiri Muslims are quite contradictory to his hitherto commendable Muslim-related policies.

Though the dimensions of the present Kashmiri crisis appear somehow unprecedented since the Indian independence in the late 40s, this crisis has its roots in the past. One will not possibly grasp the reasons for the turbulent nature of the present crisis without going to historical causes.

In fact gross neglect to Muslim grievances by former Indian governments has played the pivotal role in shaping up the present state of affairs.

So it may be said with some justice that Singh's government has indeed fallen victim to the wrong policies of the past governments and inherits a very ominous legacy in this connection.

Now given the urgency of the issue and the Indian government's inclination along this long [as published] and the prime minister's deep concern over his country's security and integrity as well as his own public image, all should be done to find a nonviolent settlement. A line of dialogue should be opened with people away from tension and violence.

In fact it is now a very sensitive juncture in the Indian nation's history, a point of make or break. New Delhi should either put a peaceful end to the Kashmiri crisis or brace for untoward accidents to unfold in an atmosphere of mistrust and misunderstanding.

Meanwhile, neither of the governments in New Delhi or Islamabad drive any benefit at all from heightening the tension in their relations over the issue of Kashmir.

Amidst this what is binding on New Delhi and what will pave the way for negotiation through the creation of an atmosphere of calm and peace is swift move to cut out the bloodshed. A just solution to this saddening problem lies, for its larger part, on the Indian government's desisting from violent measures.

New Delhi can certainly benefit from options other than violence. For one, it may even get a hand from the Islamic Republic to act in a mediatory capacity and use its good offices with the Kashmiri Muslims.

The Iranian government appears to be open to proposals for mediation between the Muslims and the Indian Government as Tehran values friendly ties with New Delhi and earnestly wishes for a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

Afghan Refugees Stage 27 Apr Rallies

LD2704185390 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Afghan refugees staged rallies in a number of cities Friday [27 April], calling for continuation of the struggle by the Afghan mujahideen until the Kabul regime is toppled and replaced by an Islamic system of government. In Tehran, the refugees massed around Palestine Square in central Tehran and read a resolution which which strongly opposed "political negotiations of any sorts with the Kabul government." The rallies were staged on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the Marxist coup in Kabul.

The resolution also urged all Afghan Muslim groups to patch up their differences and instead concentrate all their power on defending the goals of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan and establishing an Islamic system of government in Kabul. It also attacked the U.S. and its allies for their interferences in Afghanistan and their attempts to prevent the formation of an Islamic government in that country.

Among other cities where rallies were held were Qom, Yazd, Isfahan, and Mashahd.

Foreign Ministry Publishes Historical Documents

NC3004123490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Tehran—The first volume of selected documents on the Persian Gulf and another volume of Irano-Iraq border documents were published by the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry recently.

Speaking to the TEHRAN TIMES in an interview, Reza Hoseyn Mirza Taheri, the director of the Document Publishing Unit of the Foreign Ministry, which is its political and international studies office, said concerning the activities of the unit:

"Previously the unit has published one volume on Iran's treaties and accords with world countries, and recently the first volume on Persian Gulf documents containing important documents on the region as well as a volume on Irano-Iraq border documents have also been published.

"Those interested in obtaining these books can obtain them at the international and political studies office of the Foreign Ministry located at Martyr Bahonar Avenue, Martyr Aqayi Street."

Mirza Taheri said the Foreign Ministry is busy currently in publishing other documentary books." [no opening quote mark as published] They include three volumes on important historic documents on Iran's relations with the Ottoman Empire, a second volume of Persian Gulf documents, as well as three volumes of documents of Iran's treaties with Argentina, South Africa, Albania, Germany before its division, the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, the U.S., Austria, Ethiopia, Jordan, Uruguay, Spain, Australia, Italy, Ireland, Iceland, Afghanistan, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia and England, which will be published as soon as possible.

Researchers at the unit are collecting, proof-reading and preparing other volumes on Persian Gulf documents, as well as on Irano-Ottoman relations and Iran's accords with other governments.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Literacy Movement

LD2804132190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Excerpts] A session of the Supreme Council in charge of the Literacy Movement was convened this morning under the chairmanship of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president. [passage omitted]

At the end of this session, our correspondent conducted an interview with the president, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at the end of the meeting with members of the Central Council of the Literacy Movement, please tell us what were the main issues about which you reached decisions and, generally, what are the government policies for strengtheningg the Literacy Movement?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. This meeting was held so that we could be informed about the outcome of measures taken for making necessary preparations for a major campaign by the Literacy Movement which will start in the current year. The gentlemen had exerted extensive and speedy efforts. They have made the preparations, and this meeting was held in order to express their readiness. [passage omitted] We have plans to provide literacy to as many illiterate people this year as we have done in the entire past ten years. This cannot be done without the people's cooperation. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Excuse me, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In order to increase the effectiveness of the Movement, do you have any plans to make use of military or perhaps basic forces?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] During this stage, we will make use of anything which can be used. We will make use of the capabilities of military forces, soldiers, conscripts, students, teachers, and even pupils in the upper classes [of secondary schools]; anyone who is capable and who is ready to assist us in this path. Of course, this depends on them if they are prepared to cooperate with us in this work.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

More on Literacy Push

LD2804171790 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA—'We are going to teach as many illiterate people to read and write this year as were taught over the past ten years,' vowed President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Saturday.

'If we feel at the beginning that illiterate people do not welcome our plan as enthusiastically as predicted we might use force,' the president told a session of the High Literacy Council.

However, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who also chairs the council said this would not be possible without participation of literate people and cooperation of families some of whose members were illiterate.

The president, saying the harms caused by illiteracy was much graver than that of other problems, noted 'we are determined to rid our country of this shame.'

Although the government has so far done its duty in this regard, the major part of the work still rests with people themselves and with those having some unlettered people in their families, Rafsanjani said.

A new literacy plan is to be enforced throughout the country as of May 5.

The literacy movement, the body in charge of teaching illiterate people to read and write, was founded in 1979 upon an order of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeini who had then said 'Iran should be made all schools.'

New Persian Daily Begins Publishing in Tehran

LD0105143490 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—A new Persian-language daily 'NAMEH IRAN' (IRAN GAZETTE) appeared at newspaper stands here as of Tuesday [1 May]. The politico-social newspaper brings the number of Tehran-based morning Persian dailies to three. The other two are 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI and 'ABRAR'. Three afternoon Persian dailies, 'KEYHAN', 'ETTELA'AT' and 'RESALAT' are also published from the capital. In addition, Tehran also has two English language dailies 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' and 'TEHRAN TIMES', and the Arabic language 'KAYHAN AL-'ARABI', all published in the morning.

Musa Dibaj is the concessionaire of the 8-page 'NAMEH IRAN', which [is] printed at the ETTELA'AT press, [and] is priced at 50 rials, twice the price of other newspapers.

The staff of the daily is reportedly composed of former members of the editorial board of 'ABRAR'. Tuesday's main headline of 'NAMEH IRAN' covers the release of American Frank Reed from Beirut. Printed in bold letters, it reads "Iran's mediation in release of second American hostage."

Pakistan

Khan Discusses Kashmir, Afghanistan Upon Return

BK0105163690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue has been appreciated, gradually, by the international community. He said this while addressing reporters following his return to Islamabad today from New York where he attended the UN General Assembly special session on international economic cooperation and the special ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries.

He said the Kashmir issue has again moved to the forefront consequent to the uprising, staged by the people in occupied Kashmir, against Indian atrocities. The foreign minister said it has been established that the UN Security Council resolutions on the Kashmir issue have not faded away, and they are still valid. He said we have successfully countered the Indian propaganda that under the Simla agreements Pakistan cannot raise the Kashmir issue in international forums. He said contrary to this, under Article 1 of the Simla agreement, Pakistan has the right to raise this issue at the United Nations for a solution and can hold mutual negotiations with India.

He described the outcome of his meeting with his Indian counterpart, I.K. Gujral, as of moderate success. He said as a result of this meeting they have agreed on the need to end tension and take stock of the steps taken in this regard.

On the Afghanistan issue, he said negotiations are continuing with the leaders of Iran and the Afghani Interim Government with a view to hold elections for a peaceful solution to this issue. He said he held meetings with several foreign ministers and exchanged views on bilateral relations and international issues.

Further on Japanese Prime Minister's Visit

Ambassador Comments

OW0105004790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1444 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, 30 Apr (KYODO)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's visit to Pakistan and India will have a restraining effect on the escalating tension between the two South Asian countries, Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Shunji Kobayashi said Monday [30 April].

"The tone used by Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh during his talks with Prime Minister Kaifu ...was encouraging for defusing tension," the ambassador said in a briefing to Islamabad-based Pakistani and foreign journalists.

In the first round of summit talks with Singh on Sunday [29 April], Kaifu called for self-restraint by both India and Pakistan, and for a peaceful settlement of mounting tensions over Jammu and Kashmir, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry officials.

Singh acknowledged the importance of peace and told the Japanese leader that India would like to use its potential not in military affairs but in economic development.

Kaifu, who is currently in India on the first leg of a five-nation South Asian tour, is scheduled to fly into Pakistan on Wednesday [2 May] after visiting Bangladesh.

During a 23-hour stay in Islamabad, Kaifu will hold a summit meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and is expected to urge that Pakistan's exercise self-restraint in dealing with the Kashmir problem.

India and Pakistan have fought twice since 1947 over Jammu and Kashmir, the only Moslem state in predominantly Hindu India. Over 300 people have been killed there amid secessionist movements since January.

Ambassador Kobayashi referred to the armed conflict in Afghanistan and said both the United States and the Soviet Union have already reached a virtual consensus that an election is the best solution to the Afghan problem. Some differences about transitional arrangements still remain to be bridged, the Japanese envoy said.

Welcomed by Bhutto

BK0205085190 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] The Japanese prime minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, arrived in Islamabad today to a warm welcome. Mr. Kaifu, who is accompanied by his wife and over 100-member entourage, was received at the airport by the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, and Mr. Asif Ali Zardari. Also present to greet the distinguished guests were the chairman of Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad; federal ministers; members of parliament; and diplomats. A 19-gun salute was given to the Japanese prime minister as he emerged from his special plane. The airport ceremonies included playing of national anthems of the two countries, a salute by a contingent drawn from three services, and inspection of guard of honor by the distinguished guest.

This afternoon the Japanese prime minister is having talks with the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, at Aiwan-i-Sadr [Presidency]. Later in the afternoon, the two prime ministers will hold a joint news conference. Tonight, Mr. Kaifu will attend a banquet being given in his honor by the Pakistan prime minister at Aiwan-i-Sadar.

Bhutto Ready To Meet With Singh

BK0205141890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1403 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, 2 May (AFP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, following mediation by Japan, said here Wednesday [2 May] she was prepared to meet her Indian counterpart Vishwanath Pratap Singh to resolve the Kashmir issue.

"I am prepared to meet Indian Prime Minister Mr. V.P. Singh any time to resolve the Kashmir issue through a dialogue," she told a joint press conference also addressed by visiting Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Ms. Bhutto said the summit could help end tension in the northern Indian state, torn by a bloody Muslim campaign for secession from New Delhi.

Mr. Kaifu had conveyed Mr. Singh's offer to take "two steps" if Pakistan took "one step" to reduce the tension, she said, adding that she appreciated this and was "ready to reciprocate."

PRC's Wan Li Begins Five-Day Official Visit

BK0205084590 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] The chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, Mr. Wan Li, was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Lahore this morning on a five-day official visit to Pakistan. Mr. Wan Li, who is leading a 47-member parliamentary delegation, was received at the airport among others by the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Mairaj Khalid; the speaker of the Punjab assembly, Mian Manzur A. Wattoo; and provincial ministers.

During his one-day stay in the provincial metropolis, Mr. Wan Li and members of his delegation will call on the Punjab governor, retired General Tikka Khan; and the chief minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. They will also visit places of historical interest.

Soviet Delegation Arrives To Sign Dam Agreement

BK0105164490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] A high-powered Soviet delegation has arrived in Quetta to sign an agreement on the implementation of the Mirani Dam project. Under the agreement, the Soviet Union will provide technical and financial assistance for the project amount to around 2 billion rupees.

The dam, which will be completed within six years, will irrigate a 25,000-acre area and will provide drinking water to a major portion of the area's population.

Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Leaves for ADB Talks in New Delhi

BK0105114190 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Asian Development Bank [ADB] officials and members are set to begin talks on replenishing and expanding the bank's $3.6 billion soft loan fund. Today, closed-door talks grouping finance ministers and central bank governors from the ADB's richest members will be the first meeting in four years to discuss the size of the fund. The annual meeting of the ADB opens in New Delhi tomorrow. Prime Minister and Finance Minister D.B. Wijetunge, who is leading the Sri Lankan delegation at the talks, left for New Delhi last night to attend the meeting. Several ministers and chief ministers of the western provinces and the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka were present at the Katunayaka International Airport to see the delegation off.

JVP Extremists Reportedly Receive Life Sentences

BK2704125790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, about 45,000 Janata Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] extremists now in custody will be detained for life. This was announced by the Sri Lankan defense minister, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, in Parliament. He said the Sri Lankan laws would be amended for this purpose and they would be held in a maximum security prison. Mr. Wijeratne was replying to a debate on a motion for the extension of emergency which was later passed by the House.